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OPINION METER

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Suspension of Ayuyu's salary sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Newly appointed Senate Rules and Procedures Committee chair Victor Hocog (R-Rota) is recommending to the panel and the Senate the suspension of the salary and other benefits of Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), who has been in jail for three months now on charges of attempted smuggling of endangered fruit bats. Community members have also questioned the Senate's lack of action since December whether to suspend or discipline Ayuyu.



Ayuyu

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MHS wins 5 gold, 1 silver in Guam Chamorro competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas High School, the only representative of the CNMI Public School System at the annual Chamoru Language Competition in Guam this year, returned home victorious after bagging seven awards on Tuesday.

The MHS Chamorro Club emerged champion in all categories it competed in and was presented with gold med-

als in five categories: oratorical, poetry recitation, proficiency, dance, and skit. MHS also bagged a silver medal in the male singing contest and a bronze in the proficiency category.

The annual Chamorro language competition, which aims to preserve and strengthen the region's indigenous language, was part of the University of Guam's Charter Day celebration on its 61st anniversary.

According to MHS principal Cherlyn

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas High School Chamorro Club that competed and won the gold medal in the skit competition Tuesday at the annual Chamoru Language Competition in Guam.

Cabrera, the school sent this year 26 students to the competition.

Named gold medalists were Alan Delos Santos, oratorical contest; Fran- See MHS on Page 4

Admin, JGO panel question non-operating K9 unit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the Inos administration and the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations are now looking for ways to help the Division of Customs' K9 unit become operational again, they are also questioning the lack of action to fill the positions as they became vacant.

The unit has been idle for at least nine months now due to the resignations of all certified handlers of the drug- and bomb-detector dogs.

Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House JGO Committee, said yesterday it is "disappointing" that the division has allowed its K9 program to be stagnant for nine months now.

Like many others, Leon Guerrero said he became aware of the issue only after the media carried a story about the sorry state of the K9 program. He said his committee is looking at ways other than raising Customs' fiscal year 2014 budget to ensure that the K9 program will function again.

The unit helps deter drugs and explo- See ADMIN on Page 4



MARCH SPECIALS

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Local

Healthcare Corp. pays in full \$3M loan with MPLT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and senior policy adviser Pete Tenorio, center, join officials and staff of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday in a turnover ceremony at the hospital wherein the corporation handed to MPLT chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero a check for \$3 million, representing full payment of the hospital's loan.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. paid in full the \$3 million principal amount it owes the Marianas Public Land Trust during a brief ceremony yesterday at the hospital, in the presence of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and medical staff.

The check was formally

handed over to MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero, who was urged by corporation officials to maintain the agency's "communication line" with corporation open as the latter still needs MPLT's assistance to resolve various emergencies at the public hospital.

MPLT approved last year a \$4.58 million line of credit for the hospital, which included

\$1.58 million for the electronic health record project. The rest of the amount, \$3 million, is due this month.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta said that they have been diligently paying the interest on this loan in the last 12 months. The interest amounts to about \$16,000 a month.

The \$3 million it paid yesterday, he said, was sourced from

monies set aside by the corporation every month.

As for the \$1.58 million loan for the electronic health record project, Babauta said the full obligation will also be paid as soon as the corporation draws down the "incentive" payment it will receive from the federal government.

The corporation stands to receive \$1.4 million in incentive

payment "in a couple of weeks."

Babauta said yesterday that the corporation will once again approach MPLT for a similar line of credit and that board chair Deleon Guerrero has promised to relay this to his colleagues.

CHCC remains under a state of emergency.

Gov. Inos thanked MPLT yesterday for helping the hospi-

tal, allowing it to address some of its immediate needs.

This week, a team of medical experts sent by the federal government exited the corporation after a 90-day mission at the hospital. It left the government a comprehensive document that specifically details the actions and items needed to sustain progress at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Sequestration impact on PSS projected at \$3.5M in 2014

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Next school year is going to be dire for the Public School System if its funding shortage is not resolved, following revelations yesterday that PSS stands to lose \$3.558 million in federal grants as a result of sequestration—a series of national automatic budget cuts.

Federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh told lawmakers during yesterday's legislative summit at the Saipan World Resort that PSS is supposed to receive \$28.9 million in federal grants this fiscal year but \$3.558 million of that will be gone starting July 1.

According to Thornburgh, PSS gets two types of grants: formula grants, which will be cut on July 1; and categorical grants, which have already been slashed starting March 1.

Data from the system show that the \$28.9 million in federal grants to public schools are composed of consolidated grant (\$8.4 million); nutrition assistance grant (\$10.2 million); Head Start (\$1.8 million); special education (\$4.8 million); and territories and freely associated education grant (\$1 million).

Based on the sequestration's initial 5-percent cut, PSS will lose beginning July 1 a total of



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, center, discuss with guests the challenges facing public schools as a result of its limited budget.

\$3.177 million under its consolidated grant; \$241,920 under special education; and \$47,954 under the territories and freely associated education grant.

Since March 1, PSS has already lost \$91,899 under its Head Start program grant, Thornburgh said.

He revealed that the projected \$3.5 million impact of sequestration may still increase because sequestration cuts may range from 5 to 9 percent.

Thornburgh said that federal grants represent 48 percent of the total funding for public education in the CNMI, far higher than the U.S. average of just 10 percent.

"Federal program funding can only be used for the intended purpose and is not a substitute for local funding," reiterated Thornburgh.

PSS' current scenario

This fiscal year 2013, the Legis-

lature allocated just \$31 million for PSS, which had asked for a \$40 million budget.

PSS runs 19 public schools and 10 Head Start centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio said that due to the "very limited appropriation" this fiscal year, 100 positions—teachers, teacher aides, instructors, and counselors—were eliminated, resulting in large class sizes in all public schools.

To bridge the budget gap, PSS froze hiring for all vacant positions, enforced an aggressive energy conservation plan, and created online programs for over 1,600 enrollees, among other measures. The budget cuts in fiscal 2013 also required the clustering of schools to share resources, he added.

Compounding the problem, Tenorio said, is the lack of funds to maintain and repair school facilities.

He pointed out that PSS' current budget of \$31 million is far lower than what it got in fiscal 2003 at \$37 million, which excluded utility costs. The current budget of \$31 million covers utility costs for all schools.

He estimated the inflation rate in the CNMI at 5 percent to 10 percent for the past 10 years. The equivalent of \$37 million is \$58 million in fiscal 2013 dollars.

For fiscal 2014, PSS is angling for \$40 million in order to restore the FTEs it lost in the last fiscal years.

Classroom teachers

PSS records show that it only has 377 teachers right now. In fiscal 2012, PSS had 464 teachers; in 2011, 574; in 2010, 549.

The number of teacher aides also went down this year to 121 compared to 141 in fiscal 2012; 192 in 2011; and 209 in 2010.

PSS currently has only 108 support staff this year, far below the 132 employed in 2012; 148

in 2011; and 144 in 2010.

New promises

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and key members of the Legislature committed their "full support" for PSS yesterday, although they could not say yet how much will be given to PSS next fiscal year.

Hofschneider's remarks mostly centered on the PSS proposal to reclaim the child care program from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and a pending bill in the Senate that would reduce the water and sewer rates of public schools.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) briefly mentioned to participants the Senate's plan to pass on Friday S.B. 18-7, which lowers the schools' utility charges. With new members of the House, Torres is hopeful that an "improved budget" may be given to the system.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) recommended tapping retirees to augment the shortage of teachers in classrooms. He described this as an "emergency" tool that can help reduce large class sizes for a lower cost.

Like his colleagues, Ways and Means chair Rep. Antonio Sablan (IR-Saipan) was noncommittal on the proposed \$40-million budget for PSS next fiscal year but said that his committee will come up with a "compromise figure" for public schools. He did not elaborate.

'Settlement deal seeks promotion of Capt. Ogumoro to major'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Deputy Attorney General Viola Alepuyo yesterday disclosed a yet-to-be-fulfilled final item in a settlement agreement that the CNMI government entered into: the promotion of police captain Aniceto Ogumoro to the rank of major.

In a declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Alepuyo said that when she was in private practice, she represented Ogumoro in a 2008 lawsuit against then acting De-

partment of Public Safety commissioner Juan I. Wabol and other police officers.

Alepuyo said that Ogumoro is now looking for a private attorney who will take over the case from her.

Alepuyo filed the declaration after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order on Feb. 28, 2013, directing Ogumoro to show cause why the court should not dismiss the case. Manglona said the case has been pending for over four years without any

activity on the docket.

In his lawsuit, Ogumoro, through Alepuyo, claimed that his arrest in 2006 was based on trumped up charges and was a conspiracy among Wabol and other police officers.

In Ogumoro's reply yesterday to Manglona's show-cause order, he asked the court not to dismiss the case.

Alepuyo asked the court to give Ogumoro more time to secure another lawyer who can represent him so he could pursue the last remaining item in the settlement agreement.

In her declaration, Alepuyo said that Wabol and his co-defendants were represented by attorney Brad Huesman, who used to be an assistant attorney general and is now

in private practice.

Alepuyo said she recently met with Huesman, DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, and assistant attorney general Lynnette Van Wyngarden to discuss the case and its last status.

Deleon Guerrero was among several police officers named as Wabol's co-defendants in the lawsuit. Deleon Guerrero recently removed Ogumoro as police director and assigned him to DPS Boating Safety Section.

Alepuyo said she and Huesman explained at the meeting that the parties reached an agreement that was memorialized but never executed.

"It was further explained during the meeting that de-

fendants, in furtherance of the settlement agreement, had substantially performed by providing the letter of apology and paying the monies agreed to, and the only item not yet met in the settlement agreement was the promotion of Mr. Ogumoro to the rank of major," Alepuyo said.

She explained that it was her understanding that the former DPS commissioner intended to promote Ogumoro, but was unable to do so because it was not included in the annual budget.

Alepuyo did not name in her declaration the former DPS commissioner.

She said the former commissioner had assured the parties in the lawsuit that he

will include Ogumoro's promotion in DPS' upcoming annual budget.

Alepuyo said that Huesman will be substituted by Wyngarden as counsel for DPS and current commissioner Deleon Guerrero.

Ogumoro was the acting police director when police officers arrested him on Feb. 11, 2006, after they raided his house on Capital Hill where they reportedly recovered three rifles and 25 boxes of ammunition.

The Office of the Attorney General later moved to dismiss the case after Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo suppressed all the evidence seized during the raid.

DPW and Commerce chiefs' resignations under review

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider received other courtesy resignations including those of Department of Public Works Secretary Anthony A. Camacho and Commerce Secretary Sixto Igismar, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

As of yesterday, the governor and lieutenant governor have yet to decide whether to accept or reject these two courtesy resignations, along with that of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

"Governor Inos may be meeting with Secretary Faisao [today] to discuss his performance

report. Until then, the governor has not made a decision on this matter yet," Demapan said.

The three-week-old Inos administration continues to review the performance reports that Cabinet members and agency heads submitted.

An incumbent lawmaker is eyeing the position of DCCA secretary, sources said. Former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente will also be heading a government agency, sources added.

So far, the Inos administration has so far confirmed keeping Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, and Workforce Investment Agency director Edith Deleon Guerrero.



Demapan

Repeat offender cries after being slapped with 12-year sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A repeat offender cried yesterday as court marshals led him away to the Department of Corrections, shortly after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho slapped him with the full maximum sentence of 12 years in prison for burglarizing a house.

George Blas Cruz Jr., 28, pleaded guilty to the offenses of burglary, theft, criminal contempt, and disturbing the peace.

Camacho sentenced Cruz to a total of 12 years in prison, to be served day for day, without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, weekend release, or any other similar program.

Citing Cruz's long criminal history, Camacho described Cruz as a repeat offender.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer asked the court to allow Cruz to turn himself in to Corrections at a later date so he could spend some time with his family before going to prison.

Camacho denied the request and ordered court marshals to take Cruz into custody and bring him to Corrections so he could start serving his sentence immediately.

In denying last January a "lenient plea agreement" offered to Cruz, the judge noted that the defendant is presently on probation after serving only eight years out of 30 years for rape, kidnapping, and robbery in 2003 and 2004 cases.

Cruz was recently released from the Department of Corrections.

The judge said Cruz was again arrested over an incident on or about Aug. 12 to 13, 2012, in which he committed burglary and theft "in the middle of the night while the victims were home, an invasion of the victim's privacy and sanctity of the home."

In that burglary, the defendant stole a Samsung phone and an iPod.

Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea deals and for imposing full maximum sentences.



Camacho

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Proposed tax law change requires copies of sales receipts in filing tax returns

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) pre-filed on Tuesday a bill requiring the submission of copies of sales receipts in filing monthly returns and tax payments to help ensure accountability and stem government revenue loss from undeclared income.

Taimanao's Senate Bill 18-14, to be formally introduced during the Senate's session on Rota tomorrow,

amends Public Law 17-30 which requires monthly instead of quarterly filing of tax returns and tax payments.

"A firm scheme of accountability of sales receipts is needed," Taimanao said in her bill, which nevertheless recognizes the Department of Finance's mandate to enforce the provisions of the Sales Receipt Act of 2002.

The law requires all persons who receive revenue from a sale in the CNMI to provide a receipt of the transaction pertaining to the transferring, giving, or exchanging of personal property, real property, or services of any kind for an agreed sum of money or other valuable consideration. This includes the use of any kind of goods, merchandise, or commodities.

"The purpose of this Act is to re-

quire that copies of sales receipts be attached to the business gross receipts tax when filed," the bill partly reads.

A government employee on Capital Hill said yesterday she herself experienced not being given receipts when she buys something from the store, a practice that she said needs to stop.

She said some stores do not issue receipts; some only do when customers ask for it.

The employee also said there were

instances in two separate stores in Garapan wherein the cashier charged her twice for the same item she bought. She saw the double charge when she looked at the cash register and talked to the cashier about it.

"It happened to me twice. Some people don't look at their receipts and some don't even get receipts so it's hard to check whether you've been charged properly especially when you're paying cash," she added. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

MHS

From Page 1

cine Sablan, poetry recitation; and Raymond Nakazato, proficiency category.

MHS' 12-member dance troupe won the gold in the traditional dance category, while another 12-member group bagged a gold in the skit competition.

The dance group's coach and adviser Luis John Castro was also presented with a special recognition.

Cabrera, who was also one of the group's chaperones, credited the students for their hard work and commitment. She disclosed that besides the diligent rehearsals of the group, students also spent a lot of time and effort in finding money for their airfare.

She also recognized the hard work of the teachers and coaches and the support and understanding of parents and community partners.

Last weekend, MHS Glee Club Rhythm 'N Harmony also emerged overall champion in the Tumon Bay Music Festival and was presented with the prestigious Sweepstakes Trophy, making it two years in a row for the group. Cabrera credited the "strong community partnership" built by MHS with the Glee Club's musical director, Paul Dujua.

Saipan Tribune learned that MHS has been joining the annual Chamoru Language Competition since 2004 where it started sweeping major recognitions.

"We're very proud of these achieve-

ments. This is a great honor not only for MHS but for the entire PSS and the Commonwealth. This is just a reminder why educators do what they do. We're here to really bring out the best in our students. It is about dedication, commitment, and excellence...something they can take into their academics and into their lives," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lack of funding

Lumi Bermudes, PSS coordinator for the Chamorro language program, disclosed yesterday that many schools skipped the Guam competition this year due to "diminished funding" from the school system, which has to assess "competing priorities."

In acknowledging the importance of

the language competition, Bermudes said PSS is planning to revive the PSS-wide Chamorro competition this year after being suspended last year.

If plans push through, the event will take place in May, coinciding with the Heritage Month celebration and will mark the second year of the PSS-organized competition. Bermudes said the plan will depend on the funding to be identified for the purpose.

Last year alone, PSS spent over \$70,000 to send participants to the Guam contest. Having the statewide competition, Bermudes said, would limit the number of delegates from schools as only major winners will compete in the Guam event.

Students of the Tinian Elementary School were disappointed upon learning that they won't be able to compete in the Guam event last Tuesday.

TES principal Dionne Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that this was the first time for the school to skip the competition after 10 years of participating. She said the school normally sends 40 to 50 students to the contest and spends about \$25,000 to \$30,000 each year. Each year, the group comes home victorious.

"We're ready to defend title [this year]; however, funding is the challenge. This is the first time we skipped the competition because we didn't have funding to support the students' participation," she said.

Hopwood Junior High principal Jonas Barcinas cited the same reason for the school's inability to join the competition. The school has been joining the event for three years and usually sends over 20 participants at a cost of more than \$10,000.



MHS students Alan Delos Santos, left, and Francine Sablan, second from right, pose with their adviser and a judge after the awarding rites Tuesday. Both students bagged gold awards in oratorical and poetry recitation contests at the recently concluded Chamoru Language Competition in Guam. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Gold medalist Raymond Nakasato, center, poses with fellow winners during Tuesday's awarding ceremonies in Guam. Nakasato topped the proficiency category of the competition. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AYUYU

From Page 1

"My own idea is recommend suspending the salary and other benefits of Senator Ayuyu. He can't attend the sessions and perform his functions because he's in jail. It's a difficult situation but we also have to be mindful of our responsibilities as senators and the concerns of the community," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The committee will meet next week to decide on the matter as a panel, and forward a recommendation to the full Senate.

"We should have an answer next week," Hocog added.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) only recently finalized the chairmanship of committees, assigning to Hocog the Rules and Procedures Committee that Ayuyu used to chair.

Ayuyu continues to receive his senator's salary, subsistence allowance, and staff and office expenses despite being in jail since Dec. 17, 2012.

A Jan. 11, 2013, Office of the Attorney General opinion stated that the Department of Finance should continue to pay Ayuyu's salary, subsistence allowance, and staff and office expenses unless the Senate suspends or disciplines him.

Hocog said the series of changes in the Senate, including the ascension of former president Jude U. Hofschneider to the lieutenant governor post, a vacancy, reorganization, and the appointment of a new member from Tinian has delayed action on the Ayuyu matter.

Hofschneider, when he was still Senate president, tasked the Rules and Procedures Committee that was headed by then vice president Torres to review and come up with recommendations on the Ayuyu matter. When Hofschneider became lieutenant governor and Torres became president, the latter had to relinquish any chairmanship and passed the baton to Hocog.

Ayuyu's jury trial begins on April 1.

Hocog said he has already talked to Ayuyu's wife and daughter about his recommendation.

"I don't want them to be caught unaware of what's happening," he said. "We are also taking necessary steps to protect the interest of the general public. Many are asking why the Senate has not done anything yet, it's because of the recent organizational changes that happened; now we're addressing this matter."

Absent any action from the Senate, Finance should continue to pay Ayuyu's salary, subsistence, staff and office expenses in the same manner it did before Ayuyu's incarceration, the OAG said.

As a lawmaker, Ayuyu receives an annual salary of \$39,300, \$76,000 in annual discretionary funds that lawmakers use to hire staff and for office operations, and a \$4,200 monthly subsistence allowance.

Other senators including Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) earlier said in her "personal opinion," the Senate should "wait for a court decision on his case before deciding on disciplining him such as expulsion."

Last year, after an almost two-month review, the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures that Hofschneider chaired recommended that senators refrain from taking any action against Ayuyu until after the U.S. District Court for the NMI decides on his indictment related to allegations that Ayuyu and another individual tried to smuggle eight fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010.

That recommendation, however, was made prior to Ayuyu's detention. Ayuyu, 48, has been detained since Dec. 17, pending his trial on new charges of obstruction of justice, tampering with witnesses, and attempting to destroy evidence related to his first case.

Ayuyu missed the inaugural session of the 18th Legislature and couldn't be given a committee chairmanship as he remains in detention.

ADMIN

From Page 1

sives in incoming cargo, luggage, and passengers.

"Just imagine how much drugs have come in undetected because there's no handlers for the dogs," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Funding is a problem for almost all agencies but it's still questionable why in nine months no one has been hired."

Customs Director Jesus Muna earlier said the use of the unit's trained dogs is just one of the many "tools" customs use; its personnel can still manually inspect luggage, cargo, and passenger for drugs and explosives, especially those deemed high-risk. However, this means longer inspection hours.

The last of the nine former certified K9 handlers left Customs before the end of June 2012.

Because of lack of funding, among other things, the division has been unable to hire replacements, Customs said.

This has left four highly trained dogs sitting idle since June 2012.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said yesterday that the Inos ad-

ministration is reviewing the matter to resolve it as soon as possible. He also said that the administration is not considering right now whether to abolish the K9 program or transfer the dogs to another agency such as the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

"One concern of the governor is to see why there was no action to fill these positions as they were being vacated," he said.

As of this time, there's no telling whether there will be reprogramming of funds to hire a dog handler.

"This will be determined once the review is done. If there is a need to reprogram, the governor will first have to identify funds available for such action," Demapan said.

Customs' two x-ray vans have also been sidelined for about a year now due to the lack of funds to repair them.

Demapan said this "matter will be part of the review."

Customs, a division under the Department of Finance, assesses excise taxes on incoming goods, inspects containers and packages at the seaport, airport, and post office, and runs the K9 facility or the drug-detector dog training facility.

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Cov-

Saipan) said yesterday that something should have been done months ago to hire at least one or two dog handlers. He reiterated that he will seek the support of his colleagues in the House to give more funds to the Division of Customs to help its K9 unit hire new dog handlers or bring back those who have left.

"I will push for this funding request," said Sablan, who worked for the Division of Customs for some 14 years before becoming a lawmaker.

The Customs' K9 program, which has been receiving federal funds, used to train dog handlers not only in the CNMI but also from Palau and American Samoa.

Sources said among the reasons customs personnel left the division is unpaid overtime because they were forced to accept "offsetting" of work hours if they have to inspect cargo during off-hours, even though they are eligible for overtime pay. They said the private consignees or businesses owning the cargos to be inspected are charged for customs inspection service anyway, not the government. The up to 16-hour cut every payday during the Fitial administration also did not exempt customs inspectors and officers.

King is court-appointed counsel for Crisostomo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has appointed attorney Janet H. King to represent habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo, who is charged with the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

As this developed, the sched-

uled preliminary hearing yesterday in Crisostomo's case was postponed again after King asked for a week to prepare.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho reset the preliminary hearing to March 20 at 9am.

Last week Camacho said that the court would appoint an attorney from Guam to represent Crisostomo as his long list of

pending and prior cases have conflicted out all on-island attorneys.

Camacho said he later learned that King, a private attorney who also works as part-time staff attorney at the Law Revision Commission, has no conflict of interest and is willing to serve as court-appointed counsel for Crisostomo.

The judge also noted that King used to serve as an assistant public defender.

King told the court that she just tendered her resignation yesterday as staff attorney at the Law Revision Commission.

King then asked the court to postpone the preliminary hearing for a week as she needs more time to prepare for the case.

King pointed out that she has not received yet any discovery materials from the government in this case.

The lawyer disclosed that she had just talked with Crisostomo and explained to him about the need to continue the hearing.

After the hearing, King told reporters that she accepted the challenge to serve as court-appointed counsel for Crisostomo.

The original preliminary hearing schedule was last Feb.

26. The 39-year-old Crisostomo was arrested on Feb. 22.

The hearing was postponed several times as the court could not find a non-conflicted attorney in the Commonwealth due the defendant's lengthy rap sheet and other reasons.

Romero was reportedly kidnapped near her house in Garapan on Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, FBI agents found her body at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis.

OAG move to seek case's dismissal minutes before trial irks Wiseman

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman expressed concern yesterday over the move of the Office of the Attorney General to dismiss a case against a police officer 15 minutes before the trial.

He said he feels compelled "to publicize this matter, expressing the court's major concerns in the hope that such an untimely and unfortunate event will be deterred from any reoccurrence," said Wiseman in his order of dismissal.

He said he cannot and shall not tolerate this turn of events in future cases.

Wiseman placed on notice all attorneys practicing before his court, regardless of the

agency they work for, that if a similar situation arises again, he will require the counsel to pay from their own funds the costs incurred in preparing for a criminal jury trial.

The case involves police officer Roy Roger Ayuyu Kaipat, who is accused of punching the father of his common-law wife.

According to court records, Kaipat's common-law wife, police officer Jasmine M. King, assaulted her father's new wife, pulling her hair and wrestling her to the ground at a house in Dandan on July 11, 2012.

Kaipat allegedly punched King's father when the latter tried to stop King. Police said the father was later taken to the hospital due to a dislocated left shoulder.

Last Feb. 27, King pleaded guilty to assault and battery. She was sentenced to three days in prison with credit of 20 hours of time served.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Kaipat with aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Kaipat's case was set for jury trial last Monday, March 11, at 9am. Sometime after 8am on that day, assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll and defense counsel Colin Thompson requested an in-chamber conference, which Wiseman granted at 8:40am.

In his statement yesterday, Wiseman disclosed that at the conference, the government, through Driscoll, stated that it could not prosecute the case

as it does not believe that they could meet the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, in view of their recent investigation of potential witnesses.

This prompted Wiseman to dismiss the prospective jurors with apologies.

Wiseman granted the motion to dismiss the case but expressed concern in dismissing the matter a few minutes before trial.

Wiseman said a jury trial with jurors sitting in the courtroom, waiting for the juror selection and the trial to begin, has been preceded by the expenditure of time, resources, funds, and many other preparatory functions.

In this case, Wiseman said, the court's clerk prepared 215 juror summonses for the mar-

shals to deliver and that it took two out of seven court marshals to locate the potential jurors and serve them with their summons over a period of 10 or more days at a substantial cost.

Wiseman said he and some of the court staff spent time to prepare over the weekend prior to the trial.

He said the potential jurors who were actually served, for the most part, all had to make special arrangements to appear in court.

"And then 10 minutes before trial time and after 30 minutes to one hour of sitting or waiting in court, the jurors are told that we do not need them and they can leave the courtroom and are dismissed," the judge said.

Wiseman said the worries, stress, and anxiety of the jurors could only be imagined.

"The cost, time, and effort that went into this process could have been avoided and used for other more productive areas," he added.

Energy promo to be held on Rota

The CNMI Energy Division recently announced its upcoming Compact Fluorescent Lights Event that aims to provide Rota residents the opportunity to get free energy-efficient Energy Star-rated bulbs.

This program, funded under the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, aims to help homeowners reduce their energy consumption and to encourage and promote energy conservation within the CNMI.

Division staff will be distributing eight energy-efficient Energy Star-rated CFL's and a reusable bag to each residential consumer at the Rota Sinapalo CUC Payment Center. The event will be held on the dates specified below and CFL's will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last.

■ March 20, 2013: 10am to 4pm

■ March 21, 2013: 8am to 4pm

In order to receive the CFL's and the reusable bag, residential consumers must present a valid identification card with photo and a copy of their most recent CUC utility bill with their name on the billing. Only one reusable bag containing eight CFL's will be issued per household. Businesses are not eligible to participate in the event.

For more information or questions regarding the event, visit the CNMI Energy Division's website at www.cnmienenergy.com or call the Energy Division at (670) 664-4487/89/90. (Office of the Governor)

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts
PRESENTS
INTERNATIONAL BALLET of the STARS
"DON QUIXOTE" & "SLEEPING BEAUTY"
World Class Ballet Stars from Russia & Japan
March 16, Saturday & 17, Sunday
Amphitheater, American Memorial Park
7:00 P.M. ~ 9:00 P.M.
Doors open at 6:30 P.M.
Tickets are available at all Shell Gas Stations on Saipan, Cafe at the Park, Shenanigans Restaurant, Hand Bags & etc, Tropical Blends.
Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3~12 years old.
For information, please call tel. 483-6271



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 • FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

1st General Membership Meeting FY 2013
March 14, 2013 at 12:00pm-4:00pm
Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
 - Announcement: CNMI Office of the Public Auditor
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Review and adoption of December 06, 2012 Minutes**
- V. Reports**
 - OVR Director
 - SILC Chairman
 - CIL Director
- VI. Old Business**
 - Review membership composition
 - Review/Plan for the 2014-2016 SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living)
 - Public Forum
- VII. New Business**
 - 2013 National Council on Independent Living Conference
 - 2014 SILC Congress Highlight
- VIII. Consumer Forum**
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous**
- X. Adjournment**

VFW Post 3457 Golf Tournament
Double Peoria Format
Saturday, March 16, 2013
Coral Ocean Point
Showtime: 7:00 a.m.
Tee Time: 8:00 a.m.
Banquet & Raffle After Golf
Cash Prizes for Top Golfers / Great Raffle Prizes
Ladies Low Net
\$90
Support Vets - Support the VFW



Judge declares mistrial in case vs ex-Corrections officer

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday declared a mistrial in the “ice” case against former Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr. after the latter’s counsel, Ramon K. Quichocho, disclosed that he currently represents the prosecution’s key witness in a family

court proceeding.

Quichocho made the disclosure shortly after the court completed jury selection on Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton urged Manglona to declare a mistrial and start over by appointing a new attorney for Falig.

Quichocho requested that he be allowed to withdraw as court-appointed counsel for

Falig “in the exercise of extra caution.”

Manglona granted Quichocho’s motion to withdraw and appointed attorney Bruce Berline as new counsel for Falig.

Manglona continued the hearing to yesterday, Wednesday, in order for Falig to meet with his new lawyer.

Manglona stated that she was inclined to grant the government’s motion for a mistrial.

At yesterday’s hearing, Berline stated that the defendant does not object to the court declaring a mistrial.

Manglona granted the government’s motion for a mistrial, thanked the jurors and discharged them. She set the jury trial for May 13, 2013.

In his brief, Quichocho said that during the jury selection on Monday, the U.S. government for the first time described a

task force officer involved in the investigation as the son of Rep. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan).

Quichocho said the task force officer is his client in a separate family court case in the Superior Court.

Naughton said this conflict cannot be resolved in a manner that avoids significant appellate issues, and that the safest route is to declare a mistrial and start over.

Falig was among nine persons arrested in August 2012 during a series of operations against “ice” distribution.

The indictment charged Falig and Vicente Aldan Sablan with conspiracy to distribute “ice” and distribution of “ice.”

Falig was also charged with possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Sablan signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Soccer school donates benches to NMIFA

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Soccer School has

donated four benches to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, strengthening the collaboration between

the two organizations in their quest to develop the sport in the CNMI.

SSS staffers Jershwin Ange-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Soccer School staffers present the blue benches they donated to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association in a ceremony Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. From left to right, SSS staffer Jershwin Angeles, NMIFA general secretary Edward Salas, SSS staffer Mae Ito, Executive Committee members Joseph Kevin Villagomez and Glen Perez, and referee Md. Amzad Hossain Khan.

les and Mae Ito presented the donation to NMIFA general secretary Edward T. Salas, executive committee members Glen Perez and Joseph Kevin Villagomez, and referee Md. Amzad Hossain Khan in a brief ceremony Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Angeles and Ito said the blue benches, which are attached by pairs and are fastened to the ground, is one of the ways of SSS to give back to the community.

Salas said that having the benches secured to the ground would prevent players from moving the benches closer to the lines, giving referees more

space to move around the field during a match.

He noted that the benches would only be “temporary” as NMIFA is working on purchasing aluminum benches within the next six months.

The benches can fit up to 50 players and their coaches.

Currently using the field are the U14 boys who have a game every Saturdays at 4pm in preparation for their trip to Beijing next month; the Women’s M-League, which has matches also on Saturdays at 6pm and 8pm and Tuesday nights; Men’s M-League on Sundays at noon, 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm

and Wednesday nights; and the U15 and U18 boys.

According to Salas, NMIFA has had a “very good relationship” with the SSS since its inception. The school previously donated soccer balls to the governing body of football in the Commonwealth and allows NMIFA to use their goals and their visiting coaches from the ChelseaFC Soccer School in Hong Kong.

He urged the community to come out and watch the soccer games. “You will see the growth and development of the sport in the last seven years. The skill level is improving,” Salas told *Saipan Tribune*.

CHC reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid: \$12.9M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since last fiscal year, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has received a significant amount of reimbursements from both Medicare and Medicaid programs, totaling to \$12.9 million as of last month.

The corporation’s management team, led by CEO Juan N. Babauta, disclosed this to hospital staff yesterday.

According to CHCC records, Medicaid reimbursements in fiscal year 2012 totaled \$6.142 million. As of Feb. 28 this year,

reimbursements for fiscal 2013 amounts to \$3.393 million.

Medicaid is a U.S. health program for low-income individuals and families. It is funded by both state and federal governments and is managed by the state.

Also, as of Feb. 28 this year, Medicare has reimbursed the corporation of a total of \$3.381 million.

Medicare is a national social insurance program administered by the federal government, which guarantees access to health insurance for Americans ages 65 and older and

younger people with disabilities as well as people with end-stage diseases.

In combined figures, the corporation received a total of \$12.9 million from the two programs as of last month.

Besides reimbursements, the corporation also depends on revenue from patients.

Yesterday, it was disclosed that CHCC recorded \$1.3 million in upfront payment from patients, or self-payers. This amount, according to the CHCC officials, is about \$500,000 more than the previous year.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Hong Ye Hardware

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Hong Ye Hardware is proposing to operate a warehouse to store its materials & supplies. This use is classified as Warehousing & General Wholesaling and is proposed to be situated on lot 550 New-12 in San Antonio on Afetna Road. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date : March 21st, 2013 Thursday

Time : 5:00 pm

**Place : Zoning Board Conference Room,
2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, March 20, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of February 21, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2011-5932:** Marksmanship Training Academy is proposing to operate a shooting academy to teach proper and safe handling and maintenance of firearms. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and is proposed to be situated on a portion of public land, #Tract 21-2 in Talofoto, Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2011-5950:** Hong Ye Hardware is proposing to operate a warehouse to store its materials & supplies. This use is classified as Warehousing & General Wholesaling and is proposed to be situated on lot 550 New-12 in San Antonio on Afetna Road. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on the Zoning Law of 2013

E. New Business

1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Marksmanship Training Academy

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marksmanship Training Academy is proposing to operate a shooting academy to teach proper and safe handling and maintenance of firearms. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and is proposed to be situated on a portion of public land, #Tract 21-2 in Talofoto, Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date : March 21st, 2013, Thursday

Time : 5:00 pm

**Place : Zoning Board Conference Room,
2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, March 20, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

'No notice yet on removal of Saipan from restricted list'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam says it has not received any official confirmation that the CNMI has been removed from the list of countries with restricted labor markets.

Consul General Bayani Mangibin said Wednesday that it will not make an announcement to the Filipino community in the CNMI until their office receives

a memorandum from concerned Philippine agencies about the lifting of the restriction.

An email from Philippine Overseas Employment Agency administrator Hans Cacdac to a Filipino worker on Saipan was circulated on Tuesday, saying a memorandum circular removing the Northern Marianas from the list will take effect this week based on an advisory from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Considered "restricted mar-

kets" are countries declared by the Philippine government as dangerous due to hostile and hazardous working conditions, with some countries given varied restrictions.

The Commonwealth's inclusion on the list since 2005 has resulted in "tighter" procedures in applying for the overseas employment certificate or OEC, a document that ensures Filipino workers who are returning to their employment site abroad

are properly documented, eligible to receive government protection and benefits, and exempted from travel tax and airport terminal fee.

Mangibin, however, said they have not received nor seen any new announcement or memorandum in the DFA and POEA website about the Commonwealth's removal from the list. "In the government, we are protocol oriented so we want to see it in black and

white first before we can make accurate announcements so as to avoid misinterpretation or dissemination of inaccurate information. The way I look at it, the situation is very fluid," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mangibin also clarified that identifying countries to be included on the list is an "inter-agency decision" involving DFA, POEA, the Department of Labor and Employment, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. Since taking over the CNMI jurisdiction after the closure of the Saipan Consulate General, the Guam consulate has been communicating with DFA in Manila about the many complaints they are receiving from overseas Filipino workers on the OEC processing, said Mangibin. He advised Filipino work-



Mangibin

ers in the Northern Marianas to obtain first their CW visa from the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Upon issuance of the visa, these workers should then follow the POEA's online appointment system to avoid long lines when processing their OEC.

The appointment service, which is free, is available at bmapointment.poea.gov.ph. Besides its main office in Mandaluyong, POEA also has counters at Duty Free Philippines in Paranaque City, SM Manila, and Trinoma in Quezon City. Required documents for restricted labor markets include a letter addressed to POEA administrator Cacdac; a passport valid for six months from the time of departure; valid work visa/permit, employment contract or other proof of employment, company ID, pay slip or other equivalent document; proof of arrival/exit from the jobsite stamped on passport; and copy of e-ticket.

Guam Consul Cortes

In other news, the Guam Consulate announced Wednesday that Vice Consul Maria Paz G. Cortes is now designated as consul after being promoted to the rank of Foreign Service Of-

ficer, Class II on March 5.

Cortes took her Foreign Service Exam in 2003 then joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila in January 2005. She was later assigned to serve in the Guam Consulate where she has been working for over five years.

She said in a phone interview yesterday that a consular officer is qualified to a promotion after three years of service under the same rank, upon the deliberation of the Board of Foreign Service Administration.

"I am thankful and honored to be given the opportunity to continue serving our *kababayans*. Also, I see the growth in service with this promotion, which means having bigger responsibilities. I am ready to take on that challenge," Cortes said when asked for comment.

Mangibin welcomed Cortes' promotion, describing her as an asset to their office, not only on consular matters but also on legal issues. Cortes is also a lawyer.

"It's a well-deserved promotion. Our new consul is very intelligent, hardworking, and dedicated to her work," he said.

Cortes, who will be in charge of the consular team that will hold the consulate's first mobile outreach on Saipan next week, said she is looking forward to meeting the Filipino community on island.

"This will be the first time that the members of the team will visit Saipan. We're excited," she added.

Santos opposes new TSA policy that OKs knives

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Washington, D.C. may be hundreds of miles away but Rep. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) wants to be heard in her opposition to the Transportation Security Administration's recent decision to allow passengers to bring knives and certain sports equipment aboard airplanes. She said this policy will result in airline passengers "flying in deadly skies all over the world."

Santos said the new policy, which lifts a longtime ban on knives and other items in airplanes, would be "extremely counterproductive to anti-terrorists preventive measure enacted since...Sept. 11, 2001."

She sent yesterday a letter to TSA Administrator John S. Pistole, registering her "strong

opposition to TSA's new policy that would allow passengers to carry pocketknives with blades less than 2.36 inches long and less than half an inch wide on-board airplanes, which is scheduled to take effect on April 25."

The lawmaker asked TSA to refrain from implementing the new policy and first discuss the issue with all stakeholders before enacting a major policy change "that will dramatically impact employees and the flying public."

"If not, then we would all be flying in deadly skies all over the world," Santos said in her one-page letter to Pistole.

Santos also told *Saipan Tribune* that she has sought the assistance of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) in sending copies of the letter to U.S. House Committee on

Homeland Security chair Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas) and Subcommittee on Transportation Security chair Richard Hudson.

The U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security's Transportation Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing on March 14 (March 15, Saipan time) to seek answers regarding TSA's efforts to advance risk-based security. Pistole has been called to testify before the subcommittee.

"This letter comes timely for said meeting," Santos, chair of the Rota Legislative Delegation, said yesterday.

In her letter to Pistole, Santos said the new TSA policy "might allude that our aviation security has become too lenient, posing unnecessary risks on airline passengers, in-flight attendants, crewmembers, and pilots."



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP13-GOV-088

Architectural & Engineering Design Services for the Tinian Health Center Repairs, Renovations and Improvements

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Capital Improvement Office, is soliciting sealed proposals for the Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Repairs Renovation and Improvements of the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-305.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on March 15, 2013 at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be presented when obtaining the package. A Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled on at the Governor's Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan on March 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Governor's Conference Room. The project completion time for this project is 90 calendar days. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager at fax no. (670) 664-2408 or via email at balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com no later than Thursday, April 4, 2013, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposals shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another proposal. However, subconsultants may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience on similar projects (25%)
2. Project Approach (25%)
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame (25%)
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects (25%)

Proposals must be sealed and marked by April 15, 2013. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than April 15, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitted an Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 4:30 p.m., April 15, 2013, local time, and maybe submitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than April 15, 2013 AND must be received no later than April 23, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-13 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work entails providing maintenance services for a period of two (2) years for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the Scope of Work and Evaluation Factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Thursday, March 14, 2013. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Monday, APRIL 15, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) price, (2) relevant experience, (3) sufficiency of workers, (4) most recent financial statement and (5) insurance requirements.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the Scope of Work at the Office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2013 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed by a walk-through of the Air Traffic Control Tower facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offer or due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for service.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned submission date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Matson lowers fuel surcharge for Guam, NMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matson, Inc. said Tuesday it will decrease its fuel related surcharge by 3.5 percentage points or from 40 percent to 36.5 percent for its Guam/CNMI and Micronesia services beginning Sunday, March 17.

The announcement also in-

cludes lowering the fuel surcharge for the Hawaii service by the same points or from 43.5 percent to 40 percent.

This latest adjustment, which is a result of recent moderation in bunker fuel prices, translates to a savings of \$80 to \$140 per container for customers of the public shipping company.

While Matson gives a 30-day

notice for its upward rate adjustments, it passes on to customers downward adjustments as soon as possible, noted Dave Hoppes, senior vice president.

"We have been encouraged by the recent moderation in bunker fuel prices, and remain focused on diligently exploring ways in which we can maximize fuel efficiency for our Hawaii and

Guam services," said Hoppes, adding that they will continue to monitor fuel costs and adjust the surcharge accordingly.

Matson last made adjustment to its fuel surcharge on Oct. 7, 2012, when it was increased by 4.5 percentage points. Prior to that, it had two consecutive cut-backs amounting to 6.5 percent points in June and July 2012.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 13, 2004

USDA grant eyed for sewer problem

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is seeking grants or "very low interest loans" from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund wastewater projects, particularly the federally required redesign of the Agingan treatment outfall pipeline. "The USDA [is working] now with CUC on its grant applications, federal regulations, and pre-applications," said CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta in her report to the CUC Board Wednesday. She said she and CUC grants writer Janice Tenorio will meet with USDA on Guam for a pre-application meeting on March 16. On March 17, a USDA State Civil Rights coordinator will arrive on Saipan to meet with CUC on the grant or loan application.

CUC: DoF has paid retro pay hike in full

The Department of Finance has reportedly paid the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. the full \$405,000 representing retroactive payments due CUC employees. CUC acting comptroller Ed Williams reported Wednesday that his office received the payment from the Finance Department on Feb. 13. "Although the amended memorandum of agreement required the government to repay only 50 percent on Feb. 15 and the remaining 50 percent on May 15, the government elected to pay the entire amount in February," said Williams.

Mar. 13, 2005

US Senate staff on fact-finding mission in CNMI

At least two U.S. Senate committee staff will arrive in the CNMI a week from now to conduct a fact-finding mission on various issues, local officials said. They include Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources staff members Alan Stayman and Josh Johnson. Gov. Juan N. Babauta confirmed yesterday that Stayman and Johnson will be arriving on Saipan next week. "They are here on a fact-finding mission and consultation with the local leaders and the private sector," said Babauta. Stayman, a former Office of Insular Affairs director, reportedly had a bitter dispute with then-CNMI governor Froilan C. Tenorio over federal issues during his stint at OIA.

Babauta OKs 300K for Youth Center

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has signed a local bill into law authorizing the use of \$300,000 to fund the Youth Center operations on Saipan. "The CNMI government must continue to ensure that the youth have access to the many programs and activities provided by the center. Therefore, the administration considers the full funding [of the Youth Center] to be of utmost importance," said Babauta in a letter to Sen. Pete P. Reyes, chair of the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation. The delegation earlier passed House Local Bill 14-49, which aimed to appropriate \$300,000 from the Managaha Island Land User Fee Trust Account to fund the Youth Center.

Mar. 13, 2006

'Stop land compensation, freeze homestead filings'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced on Friday plans to stop payment of land compensation and to reinstate the moratorium on homestead applications. Fitial said during his weekly press conference that only \$88,000 now remained of the \$28-million fund allocated to compensate private landowners whose properties had been seized by government for infrastructure projects and other public purposes. According to the governor, there are a little over 100 landowners who had benefited from the land compensation fund. At least 193 other claimants have yet to receive compensation. The defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority had reportedly awarded nearly \$8 million-a quarter of the total land compensation fund-to two families.

'Attorney fees contract in probate unenforceable'

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama has denied a lawyer's claim for reimbursement pursuant to his attorney fees contract in representing an estate in the litigation. Lizama ruled that attorney Jay Sorensen's claim is unenforceable, although he is entitled to reimbursement. Lizama said that, as an attorney calculating his fees as a percentage of the value of all or any part of an estate, Sorensen clearly fails within the scope of the statute. But the judge noted that Sorensen should be justly compensated for the work he had performed on behalf of the heirs. "There is not basis for total forfeiture of compensation," Lizama said as he directed the lawyer to submit documentation of the services performed and proof of the value of these services in the estate of Isaac Kaipat.



Asuncion is new senior pool champ

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lito Asuncion, seen holding a trophy, is flanked by other congregates at the Aging Center after he was declared the Man Amko' Pool Tournament champion on Tuesday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Aging Center has a new pool champion in Lito Asuncion.

Asuncion, one of the newest congregates at the center, bested seven other contenders, including last year's winner Jesus Pangelinan, in the Man'Amko Pool Tournament held Tuesday.

Besides Asuncion and Pangelinan, the other tournament participants were Roberto Dela Cruz, Ann M. Perry, Leonides Marinas, Kimo Jordan, Pedro Dela Cruz, and Orlando Gondayo.

The tournament is among the regular programs at the center that promote active and healthy living among the island's elderly.

Aging Office coordinator Walter Manglona said the event was very successful and the *man'amko* enjoyed watching the competition.

Manglona said the tournament was sponsored by the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council, and officials led by president Maria T. Salinas handed a trophy and monetary prize to Asuncion. The council also pro-

vided apple green tea to spectators.

"I personally must say that the event showed an amazingly positive feedback in promoting goodwill and friendship amongst our clients, which will ultimately lead to good health and respect," said Manglona.

The seniors also took part in their weekly ground golf tournament on Wednesday.

FSM declares national election winners

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Office of the National Elections Director certified yesterday the official results of the Congressional General Elections held on March 5, 2013, to seat the two-year members of the upcoming 18th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

National Election director Albert T. Welly declared the winning national candidates

in the States of Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. According to his letter, the candidates who received the plurality of votes cast in the Congressional General Election are:

■ From the State of Kosrae, Paliknoa T. Welly with total votes of 2,106;

■ From the State of Yap, Isaac V. Figir with total votes of 2,692; and

■ From the State of Pohnpei, Dohsis Halbert with a total count of 2,489 from the state's Congressional District 1; Berny Martin with 2,981 from Congressional District 2; and David W. Panuelo with a total vote of 2,124 from Congressional District.

For the Congressional General Election for the State of Chuuk, the National Election director's letter noted that declaration for "the winning candi-

dates for Chuuk State shall be made after the National Election Commissioner has completed and certified the result..."

When the Office of the National Election Office completes its final certification and declaration, the winners of the Congressional General Elections will look forward to the opening of the incoming 18th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, scheduled to convene on May 11, 2013. (PR)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Pauline "Lina" Mendiola! God bless and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you too Juan!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GOOD JOB!

Congratulations to our granddaughter, Tiffany Snodgrass Hocog, for being recognized as student of the month and for receiving her first holy communion in Hawaii on March 10, 2013. You mean the world to us and may the Lord be with you throughout the years as you grow! We miss and love you! With love from Grandma Hocog, your auntie, uncles, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NMI JUDICIARY

From left to right, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, former governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, Faye Wiseman, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Associate Judge Joseph Camacho and Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Wiseman takes his third oath of office

March 13, 2013, marked the last day of Associate Judge David A. Wiseman's second term of office and the first day of his third term of office as judge of the CNMI Superior Court.

For his third, Wiseman was sworn in by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, with Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, other judges, justices, and staff present.

Wiseman stated that this was actually his fourth judicial oath of office. He first took the oath in 1995 upon being sworn in as a special judge. The second time was in 2001 after being nominated to the court by former governor Pedro P. Tenorio. The third oath of office Wiseman took was in 2005, when retained by the voters for a second term as a Superior Court associate

judge. And now, after again being retained by the voters for a third term of office, he was taking the oath again.

Wiseman said: "The oath of office represents a commitment to uphold the CNMI and the

U.S. constitutions, as well as the rule of law, which is the core of any civilized society." The judge further expressed his belief that he has fulfilled this commitment in serving the community for the last 12 years and has done so with

honor and integrity.

"It has been a pleasure, privilege, and honor to have had this opportunity and I look forward to continuing to serve the community in this new term of office," he said. *(NMI Judiciary)*

Investiture ceremony for Inos next week

The NMI Judiciary and the Judicial Council will host an investiture ceremony for CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 10:30am in the Supreme Court courtroom. The public is invited.

Inos, having been nominated to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court bench, appeared

before the Senate's Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations on March 7, 2013. Following the committee's recommendation, the full Senate voted unanimously to confirm Inos as associate justice on March 8, 2013. He was duly commissioned that same day, with Gov. Eloy S. Inos adminis-

tering the oath of office.

Before his ascension to the Supreme Court, Inos served the people of the Commonwealth as an associate judge since Sept. 22, 2008. *(CNMI Judiciary)*



Inos

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DUI checkpoints on Sunday

As part of the 2013 National Campaign for St. Patrick's Day, the Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Sunday, March 17, 2013.

The first will be from 4:30pm to 5:45pm along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Dr. Kaipat's residence. The second will be from 6:30pm to 7:45pm along Chalan Pale' Arnold Chalan Laulau by IT&E. Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect, and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts or car seats.

Traffic officers will also be conducting high visibility enforcement, and laser (speed detection) enforcement between 8pm and 10pm along Chalan Pale' Arnold and Monsignor Guerrero highways. *(DPS)*

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 15-16, from 2pm to 2am.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the is-

land of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. *(PR)*

CCA board to meet on March 19

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its board meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. *(CCA)*

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uogam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uogam.uog.edu). *(UOG)*

ON THE NET
<http://www.justice.gov.mp/>

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-COTA/FTA-093**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SAIPAN FIXED-FLEX ROUTE AND PARA-TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CNMI, A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MARCH 14, 2013** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 1ST FLOOR, HON. JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN. A NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT OF **FIFTY DOLLARS USD (\$50.00)** IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SET. PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE CNMI TREASURER AND A RECEIPT OF PAYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED WHEN OBTAINING THE SCOPE OF WORK AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR **APRIL 04, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY'S CONFERENCE ROOM 1ST FLOOR, HON. JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. VINCE C. MERFALEN, MOBILITY & TRANSIT COORDINATOR OR FAXED TO (670) 664-2211 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 10, 2013**.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice – Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting beginning Friday, March 15, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Call to the Audience
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
- IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**
 - A. CEO Report – Commissioned Corp Sustainability Report
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. Special Committee Report on CEO Evaluation
 - B. Special Committee Report on HealthTech Assessment Recommendations
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
- VII. OLD BUSINESS**
 - CEO Evaluation
- VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION**
 - CEO Evaluation
- IX. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - A. Next Meeting
 - B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to the greatest father/grandfather on the whole island, Frank Hocog Ramangmou! You are special in our life. May you continue to be blessed with more days to come! We love you Daddy/Grandpa! Greetings come from your kids and grandkids!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

<p>NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>VICENTE K. BASA aka VINCENT K. BASA, Defendant.</p>	<p>CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0120</p> <p>SUMMONS</p>
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TO: VICENTE K. BASA aka VINCENT K. BASA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 15th day of January, 2013

/s/ Clerk of Court 2nd Publication

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

North Korea's puzzling bluster

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star on Tuesday, March 12:

The secretive North Korean regime has always been known for bluster and hyperbole, but in recent days its pronouncements have become more extreme, and the reasons, as usual, are somewhat obscure.

Pyongyang could be reacting to United Nations sanctions approved last week or ongoing military exercises between the United States and South Korea, which always rile up the excitable northerners. But the real trigger may have been China's decision to crack down, at last, on its erratic ally.

North Korea in recent months has defied the world—and its Chinese allies—by testing an intercontinental ballistic missile and conducting a third nuclear bomb test. Beijing fears the North's reckless pursuit of nuclear bombs could set off an East Asian arms race that would undermine its own regional security.

North Korea says it has torn up the armistice of 1953 ending the Korean War—although no official notification had been yet sent to Washington by late Monday—and is refusing to answer calls from South Korea on their shared hot line.

The Ask a Korean blog, which tracks Korean-language media, reports a new sense of resolve on the part of the Beijing leadership. It has imposed tougher enforcement of smuggling across China's border with North Korea, causing prices for essential commodities like rice to skyrocket in North Korea.

China's move to crimp off cross-border trade could have prompted Pyongyang to revert to its default mode: Issue a stream of dire threats to gain attention, leading to another round of talks and more shipments of aid in exchange for Pyongyang's promise, once again, to cease and desist.

That's how it has worked for the last 15 years. The tougher response by the United Nations as well as the Obama administration—which announced tough sanctions of its own Monday—indicates that the old game of Pyongyang blackmail is rightly no longer working.

©2013 The Kansas City Star (Kansas City, Mo.)

Hamid Karzai's antics don't build confidence

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Tuesday, March 12:

Confidence is a requisite component in the Western relationship with Afghanistan. NATO troops cannot hand over security duties and withdraw unless it's certain that Afghan security forces can fill the void. The planned 2014 end of America's combat role also requires confidence that Afghanistan's leadership is stable.

President Hamid Karzai seems to be doing everything in his power to undermine that confidence. He has long had a penchant for erratic behavior and paranoia-laced statements. But he went over the top with his weekend suggestion that the U.S. is colluding with the Taliban.

According to Karzai's twisted logic, foreign troops are maneuvering to prolong their stay beyond 2014. Secret U.S.-Taliban negotiations are in progress, he alleges. A Taliban bombing last weekend in Kabul, which killed at least nine people, demonstrates "that Taliban want longer presence of foreigners—not their departure from Afghanistan," Karzai said.

See HAMID on Next Page



The church is more than the pope

By RICK COLE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The international media are focused on a smokestack above the Sistine Chapel, waiting for white smoke to signal the election of a new pope. As usual, however, the media are looking at the Roman Catholic Church through the wrong end of the telescope.

The mystery and secrecy of the conclave are ideal for spawning the speculative frenzy that fills airtime. Which of the 115 cardinals disappearing behind the locked doors will emerge on the balcony to a thunderous ovation? Will he be a conservative or a liberal? A European, or perhaps a pope of a different color? A "traditionalist" like Pius XII, an "innovator" like John XXIII, a "rock star" like John Paul II or a "transitional" figure like Benedict XVI? What will his views be on (insert a controversial topic here)?

Such superficial chatter is mostly beside the point. The next pope is not going to inaugurate sweeping changes in the church's moral teachings nor abandon its commitment to peace and justice. He's not going to transform the church nor trigger its collapse. The last pope wasn't the source of the daunting challenges facing the Catholic Church and Christians in the contemporary world, and the next pope won't be the solution to them.

It obviously matters who the next pope will be. He is the single most visible "face" of Christianity in an increasingly secularized world. Yet the real drama of faith is unfolding in hundreds of millions of homes and hundreds of thousands of churches around the world.

Church politics are simply not that central to the lives of more than 1 billion Catholics. The Catholic Church is far more resilient, complex and diverse than can be seen through the eyes of the media. Scandals making headlines in Los Angeles go little-noticed by believers in Lagos, Nigeria—and vice versa.

The remarkable resignation of Benedict should have signaled a less "pope centric" view of the church. "Loving the church also means having to make difficult, trying choices," he said of his deci-

sion, "having ever before oneself the good of the church and not one's own."

A thousand years ago, the institutional church was embroiled in turmoil similar to what we hear about today. Corruption tainted the church from within, and Islam threatened it from without. A passionate layman managed to win an audience with the formidable Pope Innocent III. The man we know as St. Francis of Assisi was seeking to create a brotherhood based on radical devotion to living the life of Christ. The pope was skeptical and sought to channel Francis' energy into more conventional paths. Then Innocent had a dream of a "little man" shoring up the collapsing cathedral in Rome. He granted the request, trusting that Francis would "hold up Christ's church by what he does and what he teaches."

The pope was right. Francis and his followers sparked a profound renewal of faith, and hundreds of years later, the Franciscans established the missions that birthed what we know today as California.

Vatican II, the great Catholic Church council of 50 years ago, defined the church as "the People of God." In "Lumen Gentium" ("Light of the Nations"), the term is used to specifically describe the world's 1.2 bil-

lion Catholics, but it also embraces other Christians as well as Jews. It spells out a broad and inclusive vision of the church, not just of ordained priests and hierarchy.

Much is made of papal infallibility, but "Lumen Gentium" underscores that "the entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One, cannot err in matters of belief."

Christians believe that it is God who ultimately guides worldly affairs, a claim the secular media simply dismiss. Yet what can't be dismissed is the reality that it is not the pope alone who will determine the future of the church. It is the "People of God" who will do that. We trust that whoever steps out onto that balcony believes that, and will lead accordingly.

Rick Cole is the parish administrator at the San Buenaventura Mission. His views are his own. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The practices of integration

“We are two Americas,” Hedrick Smith writes in his article *One Economy, Two Americas*, repeating the embarrassing image of the 1 percent versus the 99 percent cleavage that has descended on the livelihood of land of the free and home of the brave!

China’s one-nation-two-systems allows Macao/Hong Kong/Taiwan in the national boundaries without batting a deceptive eye. In fact, the *Taiji* tradition (the dynamic of the *yin* and the *yang* balanced in the middle by the invisible pivot point) does not engage in an elaborate political façade of deception. The reality of integration is central to the traditional understanding on how life is lived.

More than 5,000 folks are at the People’s Halls of Congress in Beijing for two weeks this month in two meetings, the CPPCC (Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference) the NPC (National People’s Congress).

The CPPCC is an “upper house” dynamic in Chinese legislation, though the English translation of “consultative function as advisory” is inadequate. The body’s history began when the Guomindang (nationalists who went to Taiwan in 1949) and the Gongchangdang (communists who marched into Beijing) tried to gather with other interested groups after WWII to chart China’s destiny.

The NPC (not to be confused with the National Political Congress of the Communist Party last November 2012), in China’s legislative process would be the “lower house.” Both gatherings have been irreverently referred to as “rubber stamps”; still, “no” and “abstention” votes had been recorded since the Three Gorges Dam project ran into substantial opposition in 1992.

To use Western imagery of the equal but separate legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government, the March meetings are legislative while the November meeting, when members of the powerful Standing Committee of the Politburo are named, is execu-

Mattiru gi ha’anen natibu

“Nai mas didog i mattirun ekonomia, man-inaminasa familia siha gi apas gima” niha ‘nai ‘guaha lamegai man-machule’guan ni solu gima’ familia.

Este na sinisede finañagon menos pottanmonedan familia ‘nai unu gi dos tumai che’chu’ ‘sino todú i dos pinalo’pu’ mantai che’chu’.

Huñgan, patte gi kutturata i para tana’ guaha fanliheñg familia antes de u guaha umakamu’. Sige dispues i nuebu na kasamientu ma-atetuye umaregla gima’ niha pot para u antau i pisu para i famaguon niha.

Lau i mattirun tiempu guaha ‘nai diskalantau ‘sino ginahca’ chubasku. Ti todú tiempu garentia na tafan gai offisiu (cho’chu’) piot ‘nai sige guatu gi inamko’ta. Guaha tumotpe man-machule’guan ni solu gima’ niha.

Enteru familia man-madisplanta. I hagas pinayon famaguon matulaika. I hagas kampon niha maliñgu. Siempre ta huñgog dinisehan niha bumira siha tatte gi gima’ ni pagu chinichili’ ni bañku. I dos saina sige ma-adibina ñgai’an ta’lu ‘nai u siña gumai gima siha.

Makat mampos na hinanau gi maseha haye pumadese. Piot ‘nai i sainan guma’ umenutet ya ti siña esta ma-emplea. Mas chagu’ abilitat man-apanen kobransa guma’ familia.

Gi mismu tiempu sige i kinalamten ha’anen tautau matmos gi manera ‘nai mas megai para u fan ginacha’ didog na pinadese. Kon-sidera un’ ratu haf’ mohon ya Luta ‘sino Tinian ‘nai sumasaga hau ‘nai todú fektus nesessidat sumen guaguan.

‘Sino konsidera pot un’ratu haf’ gaige gi hinassu yan korason i dos saina ‘nai ginacha’ mattirun maliñgun primet na guma’ familia? Ti deskribiyun i makat na sentimentu giya siha.

I kondision ekonomia gaige gi dos patman kanai man-ma’gasta. Kau u siña ma-adelanta i hagas dumilog cha’ka na kondision siempre ta li’e gi halom sais mesis.

Bes enkuando, mampos ha estotbayu’ maliñgun gima’ familia ni

tive. Comparisons and contrasts With western structures, however, are illuminative but not exhaustive.

Integration, practiced and symbolized, waves boldly in the stars on the red flag of China (*Zhongguo*, the Middle Realm). The large star represents the Communist Party, and the four smaller stars designate the peasants (agrarian), the PLA (movemental), *petit bourgeoisie* (entrepreneurial), and the national capitalists (investments). Ethnically, the large star also points to the Han, with the circle completed by the Tibetan, Mongol, Manchu, and the myriad of ethnic groups.

In the ideology of modern China, integration began with Sun Yat Sen’s nationalism and socialism. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek zeroed in on the first, and Chairman Mao Zedong took to the second. After the civil war in 1949, Mao replaced the urban industrial workers of Marx-Lenin as the key to social revolution with the agrarian peasants first, and then later, the corrective of militant movemental Red Guards mouthing quotes from the Cultural Revolution Red Book while tilling the land.

After the Mao-pretenders of the Gang of Four were banished, Deng Xiaoping pulled in the entrepreneur and the investor into his reform-of-the-economy and opening-up-of-China package. Jiang Zemin condensed the country’s 70-year history with “three represents” of revolution, development, and reform. Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao integrated the four “stars” back together with a “scientific outlook on development” that is earth-friendly and people-centered. New code words await the Xi Jinping and Li Kejiang watch. The process of integration is in place, though at tectonic pace.

Why this would be of any interest to the confrontational politics of the CNMI is precisely at that dialectical point, a procedural, methodological, and structural feature we inherited from the European experience. The dichotomized royals versus the merchant middle class gave

rimimulionon baban ekonomia ‘nai guaha kase 6,000 na tautau mantai che’chu’. Guaha mohon ume-ekuñgog?

Obligasion Familia

Kumu patriatkan familia, ti bai’ kuestiona pinadesen dos sainan guma’ ni mantinetpe maliñgu fanliheñg familia pot ti siña esta mapase kobransa.

Hombre mañainahu antes ti malañgag ma-apase kuantan kandet (ennau i tres pesos gi mes) ni dispues ma-utut. Kontodu gui’eñg mame kulan katbon ‘an oga’an sa’ fihon falut ‘nai in’ chegue estudiun mame. La anaku’ ayu na tiempu ‘nai mantai kandet ham. Hu komprende haf’ chinatsaga deste tiempun falut.

Gi hiniyoñg i Navy, mas ma-umenta i numeron mantai che’chu’ na tautau-ta. Ensegidas matulus siha para i gualu’ familia ni mana’ inayuda entre peskan tasi yan sabana. Ayu ‘nai hu li’e detetminasion natibu gi halom mattiempu. Ni unu sumeha gi finatton chinatsaga.

I ineppen gi para u guaha linibianu gaige na mau’udai gi hinemlu’ ekonomia-ta. Este na obligasion gaige gi dos patman kanai man-ma-elihe. Maila’ ta pulan haf’ mamamaila’.

Mattirun Ha’ilas

Hu li’e un’ sainan mame ha sosohgue uttimu katdon satdinas gi fondun lata. Ni katu tai suette ‘nai ha palala’e i hinegsa’ ni ‘ansoh-guen chigu’ lata.

I bisinu ha tunu i lemai ya ha planta kumu sena sin totche. Esta i sigente dia ‘nai mañochu freskun guihan ‘nai pumeska i amku’. Guaha lokue’ hinegsa ha’ maprekura sa’ mampos bahu i kinalamten hinanau i Navy.

Tat hogsu’ lokue’ ti in’ fatoiuge gi rinikohen bronse. Esta ha’ ‘nai siña mangai totche ham ya mohon hafa lau latan makaro’ (mack-

Afghanistan’s National Security Council, which Karzai chairs, also had accused U.S. special operations forces of torturing or murdering noncombatants in heavily conflicted Wardak province. Without offering proof to back up those charges, Karzai had demanded that the forces be withdrawn by Sunday. The United States hasn’t complied, probably because Afghan forces are not ready to take control and stop what would probably be a quick Taliban takeover.

The killings of two U.S. service members in eastern Wardak on Monday by a uniformed Afghan underscore the very real concerns American officials have about Afghanistan’s future. Karzai’s irresponsible rants undermine the willingness of Western countries to continue supporting him, while they risk making him appear to his own people as untethered to reality.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium’s turn. He now writes from China.



rise to the parliament, with its built-in pro versus con definitions, and its decision-making method of dividing the House.

At the personal level, we experience this with our slapstick humor that sees comedy in the fault and fall of another. Among *Pinoys*, this translates into the “crab” mentality where a unit in a group is taken down when one rises too fast! This was clear at SVES where parents vied to ensure their child made a coveted award at graduation, rather than focus on their learning. Competition revered often was downright dirty! Putdowns are a preferred way of relating.

The female of the specie tends to be more integrative than confrontational. We see this difference between Park Geun-hye of Korea with Sintaru Abe of Japan; the light touch of Shinawatra of Thailand, compared to the heavy-handed push of his exiled brother Thaksin, is apparent. Of course, we cannot be too strict on this as Pea Eye had both the simple Cory Aquino and the complicated small-but-terrible bully Macapagal-Arroyo!

Still with the heated rhetoric in the Korean peninsula (no Soviet/Chinese troops in DPRK; there are 30,000 heavily armed U.S. Marines in SoKor, and we wonder why Kim Jung Un is antsy?), and the insurrection in southern Thailand where the Malay Muslims got into the old Siam, the integrating feminine touch is in order.

Integration is native to our region. The Marianas would be well to return to its own!

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



erel). Ayu na achog’ pagu, guaha ‘nai hu fada’ makaro’ pot hu ha-hassu antes i maipen hinegsa’ yan finadeni. Paire na sentada piot ya ti sessu hau masuette otru klasen totche.

I pinegsai gualu palu umataha finapos mame deste manog, ñga-ña, babue yan chiba. Dispues sige ham man-e’ayuyu gi uttimon semana ‘sino man-e’pañglau gi kantun unai. Magahet na fuetsau na pineble ha afuetsas hit mañgalamten gi satbasion interes familia. Todú mañanau gi katkuet kinalamten kontodu man-ugas mendio-ka yan eskomen mai’es. De dios!

Umafagcha’ dos dakun gi plasan bola. Ilegña i unu, “Pare, ti hu li’e hau gi interon amiguta Mañana?” Ineppe: “Ni guahu ti hu li’e hau lokue’. Era ni unu mattu taimanu umali’e i dos? Tabla?

Sige amiguahu Magoo kumantan na mahalañg. Hu faisen haf’ na kulan pumininite. Ilegña, ‘Mattu i mauleg na amiguahu ya ha kune’guan-yu ni asaguahu”. Ti hu kontinua mas i konbetsasion tatnai sisida guahu ‘nai u poduñg binibuña.

Lau, de dios para un’ placha’e amigumu ni asaguaña? Haf’ na karitatibun tautau i puru traision mañganite gaige giya guiya? Buente ti sen madoktrina i prohimo ayu mina’ tai konsensia haf’ che’chu’ tautau kontraayu i kuattru patas niha.

Karzai must know that U.S. public support is minimal for an extended troop presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014. The way to ensure an orderly—and on-schedule—U.S. withdrawal is for Karzai to demonstrate true leadership: Step up the recruitment campaign for Afghan security forces, accelerate the fight against corruption, boost employment opportunities and create a genuine sense of national pride that Afghans would want to fight to sustain.

Making the United States out to be a Taliban-allied boogeyman neither convinces Afghans of their leader’s competence nor builds Western confidence that they’re leaving this danger-fraught country in good hands.

HAMID

From Page 10

Karzai’s outburst coincided with the cancellation of a joint news conference with the new U.S. defense secretary, Chuck Hagel. Although security concerns were listed as the reason, it was clear from the context that Hagel had no intention of sharing a podium and microphone with Karzai.

The U.S. has postponed a handover of Bagram prison, which holds captured Taliban fighters and other insurgents. Karzai had indicated he would release several prisoners as soon as the handover occurred, prompting U.S. military officials to halt it.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼76°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼76°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲52 ▼32
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼65
London	Partly Cloudy	▲43 ▼31
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲81 ▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼55
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼30
Osaka	Windy	▲46 ▼34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▼27
Pusan	Windy	▲50 ▼40
Rome	Showers	▲53 ▼40
Salem	Cloudy	▲64 ▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲48 ▼30
Tokyo	Rain	▲50 ▼35
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼33

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
4:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
10:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
10:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is causing cloudiness and scattered showers just west of Yap, Guam and Saipan but over Koror in an area bounded by a line from 6N134E to 14N134E to 14N144E back to 6N134E. A near-equatorial trough heads east-southeastward from 3N130E through a circulation centered southeast of Yap at 3N143E to end at EQ161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms exist from southeast of Yap to just southwest of Chuuk or within 160 miles of a line from 3N140E to 5N151E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within 180 miles of a line from 9N156E to 3N160E. A surface trough heads northward from 16N163E to beyond 25N at 166E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring over Wake Island or north of a line from 17N163E to 25N176E. A shear line curves eastward from 16N164E to 12N173E to beyond the date line at 13N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers over the Republic of the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 7N167E to 5N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	7:45 AM	8:32 PM
Friday	8:28 AM	9:24 PM
Saturday	9:12 AM	10:14 PM
Sunday	9:57 AM	11:04 PM
Monday	10:43 AM	11:54 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am 3:35am
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am 7:55am
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am 10:40am
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm 2:35pm
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm 6:25pm
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm 9:10pm
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)		
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	OZ119	4:00am 6:40am
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		
DL297	4:25pm	7:25pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ606	2:10am 6:00am
				OZ606	2:40am 6:30am
				OZ6063	3:30am 7:20am
				OZ119	4:00am 11:20am
				OZ604	3:20pm 7:10pm
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)		
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU7108	3:50am 7:40am
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)		
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	XF1734	11:55am 5:10pm
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ606/721	2:10am 11:50am
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ606/721	2:40am 11:50am
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	UA5076/147	3:10pm 9:45pm
UA5062/191	4:40am	9:55am	3 via GUM	OZ604/749	3:20pm 11:00pm
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
DL287/173	6:00am	10:35pm	1, 3, 6 via NRT		
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		
UA5072/PR111	9:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
SAIPAN-ROTTERDAM (RTM)			SAIPAN-TINIAN		
FR102	9:30am	10:00am	Daily	FR101	6:45am 6:55am
FR104	10:20am	10:45am	Daily	FR103	7:30am 7:40am
FR106	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	FR105	8:00am 8:10am
FR108	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	FR107	8:40am 8:50am
FR110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	FR109	9:10am 9:20am
FR112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	FR111	10:45am 10:55am
FR114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily		
FR116	13:30pm	13:40pm	Daily		
FR118	14:50pm	15:00pm	Daily		
FR120	16:20pm	16:30pm	Daily		
FR122	17:00pm	17:10pm	Daily		
FR124	18:05pm	18:15pm	Daily		
FR126	18:50pm	19:00pm	Daily		

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- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

FAA approves Boeing plan to fix 787's batteries

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Boeing plan to redesign the 787 Dreamliner's fire-plagued lithium-ion batteries won approval Tuesday from the Federal Aviation Administration, moving the cutting-edge planes a step closer to flying passengers again.

The plan includes changes to the internal battery components to minimize the possibility of short-circuiting, which can lead to overheating and cause a fire. Among the changes are better insulation of the battery's eight cells and the addition of a new containment and venting system, the FAA said in a statement.

The FAA statement didn't provide an estimate for when the grounded planes might return to service. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., who was briefed by the agency, said that if all goes well, the FAA could give final approval by mid- to late April for the 787 to resume flight.

Boeing would still have to retrofit the 50 planes already

delivered to eight airlines in seven countries, Larsen said in an interview. That could mean the plane wouldn't return to the skies until late April or early May, he said.

First, Boeing's redesigned batteries have to pass a series of 20 separate lab tests, Larsen said, then flight tests would follow.

"If there's any one test that isn't passed, it's back to the drawing board for that particular part of the tests," he said.

So far, test flights of two 787s have been approved—one with a complete prototype of the new battery, the other with only a new, more robust containment box for the battery, Boeing spokesman Marc Birtel said.

The plan is an outline for a recertification of the plane's batteries, the FAA said. The 787 has two identical lithium-ion batteries, one of which is located toward the front of the plane and powers cockpit electrical systems, the other toward the rear and used to start an auxil-

iary power unit while the plane is on the ground, among other functions.

Every item that is part of an airplane, down to its nuts and

bolts, must be certified as safe before FAA approves that type of plane as safe for flight.

The 787 fleet worldwide has been grounded by the FAA

and civil aviation authorities in other countries since Jan. 16, following a battery fire on a Dreamliner parked in Boston and a smoking battery that led

to the emergency landing of another 787 in Japan.

"This comprehensive series of tests will show us whether the proposed battery improvements will work as designed," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a statement. "We won't allow the plane to return to service unless we're satisfied that the new design ensures the safety of the aircraft and its passengers."

All Nippon Airways, the largest customer for the plane so far, said in a statement from Japan that it saw the FAA decision as significant progress. "Putting safety as the first priority, we hope to get the planes back in the air as soon as possible," the airline said.

The airliner's troubles have raised concerns that the FAA has ceded too much responsibility for evaluating the safety of new aircraft to manufacturers. To save manpower, the FAA designates employees at aircraft makers and their subcontractors to conduct the safety testing of new planes. Boeing's battery testing concluded that short-circuiting wouldn't lead to a fire and that the chance of a smoke event was one in every 10 million flight hours.



In this Jan. 7, 2013, file photo, a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 jet aircraft is surrounded by emergency vehicles while parked at a terminal E gate at Logan International Airport in Boston as a fire chief looks into the cargo hold.

Twinkies buyers hungry for more Hostess cakes

NEW YORK (AP)—The new buyers of Twinkies apparently developed a sweet tooth for Hostess snack cakes.

Apollo Global Management and Metropoulos & Co., which made a joint offer to snap up the famous cream-filled cakes, have also entered the contest to buy Drake's, which include Devil Dogs and Yodels, according to a source who requested anonymity because the sale process is private.

The fresh offer poses a challenge to McKee Foods, the maker of Little Debbie cakes. Hostess had previously picked McKee's \$27.5 million offer as the "stalking horse" bid for Drake's that set the floor for an auction. The deadline to submit competing offers was 5 p.m. EDT Tuesday.

The offer for Drake's from Apollo and Metropoulos still needs to be reviewed to determine whether it qualifies, according to the source. If not, the auction on Friday would be canceled and McKee would be picked as the buyer.

Representatives for Hostess and McKee Foods de-

clined to comment.

Representatives for Apollo and Metropoulos were not immediately able to comment. Apollo's investments include fast-food chains Carl's Jr. and Hardee's. Metropoulos owns Pabst beer.

The two investment firms were already selected by Hostess as the buyer for Twinkies, Ding Dongs, Ho Hos and other Hostess cakes after nobody stepped forward to top its \$410 million offer, according to a filing in bankruptcy court Monday.

In reference to that deal, Metropoulos & Co. CEO and founder Dean Metropoulos said in a statement that the firm was looking forward to having "America's favorite snacks back on the shelf by this summer."

A spokesman for Hostess said the company had no comment on the lack of competing bids for Twinkies and the other Hostess cakes. Previously, Hostess CEO Greg Rayburn had predicted the competition for those cakes would be "wild and wooly."

To mayor, NYC soda ruling just 'temporary setback'

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite Mayor Michael Bloomberg's bullishness, political realities and legal questions make for an uncertain future for one of the premier pieces of his legacy: a now-blocked ban on supersized sugary drinks.

The city lost no time Tuesday getting started on the next round of the fight after a judge nixed the first-of-its-kind regulation. Bloomberg called the strongly worded court ruling a "temporary setback" and emphasizing that the city is confident about

winning an appeal. He predicted that in the meantime, the novel regulation would become a bellwether in the national fight against obesity.

"I don't think there's any doubt that momentum is moving in our direction," he said after convening a thicket of news cameras at a Manhattan diner that is voluntarily complying with the stricken-down rule.

While the city has ultimately prevailed in some similar cases, legal experts say it's unclear

how judges will view whether health regulators overshot their authority in this one. Moreover, the appeal could linger beyond Bloomberg's term when it ends this year, and several of his would-be successors don't appear to have his appetite for pursuing it.

State Supreme Court Justice Milton Tingling's decision, issued Monday, says that the soda rule has so many exemptions that it's illegally arbitrary and that the Bloomberg-appointed Board of Health trod on the City

Council's turf to impose it.

"This is a serious challenge to the city," particularly for saying the health board violated the separation-of-powers principle, said James Fanto, a Brooklyn Law School professor who specializes in business law and regulation.

The city filed a formal notice Tuesday of its appeal. The American Beverage Association and other opponents of the rule said they felt the judge's decision was strong and were confident in it.

Drugmakers, Interpol ramp up fight against fakes

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

More than two dozen of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies have agreed to provide funding and other support to Interpol's battle against counterfeit prescription drugs, the international police agency said Tuesday.

Interpol's newly created Pharmaceutical Crime Program aims

to help health agencies, police and customs bureaus in countries around the globe stem the supply of bogus brand-name and generic medicines, as well as identify and dismantle the organized crime rings distributing them.

Those rings, which operate across borders, are raking in billions of dollars every year, costing legitimate drugmakers a small fortune in lost sales. Meanwhile patients who un-

knowingly take counterfeit drugs often are poisoned or get sicker because they're not receiving what the doctor prescribed. Experts estimate hundreds of thousands of people around the world die because of counterfeit medicines each year.

The pharmaceutical companies have pledged a total of (EURO)4.5 million, or nearly \$5.9 million, over three years to help Interpol with efforts includ-

ing training local law enforcement officials on investigative procedures, evidence handling and how to better work with partners outside their countries.

Interpol also will help those authorities build up their infrastructure and target enforcement actions against crime rings that make and sell fake drugs, and also divert medication illegally to countries where it's not approved.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,450.06	1,552.48	3,242.32
+2.77	-3.74	-10.55
+0.02%	-0.24%	-0.32%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7576	Philippine Peso	40.6
Australian Dollar	0.9695	Indian Rupee	54.1475
British Pound	0.6693	Indonesian Rupiah	9697
Canadian Dollar	1.0257	Japanese Yen	95.63
Chinese Yuan	6.2196	Malaysian Ringgit	3.105
Euro	0.7669	New Zealand Dollar	1.211
		Singapore Dollar	1.2463
		South Korean Won	1097.7
		Swiss Franc	0.9465
		Taiwan Dollar	29.662
		Thailand Baht	29.63

Nation

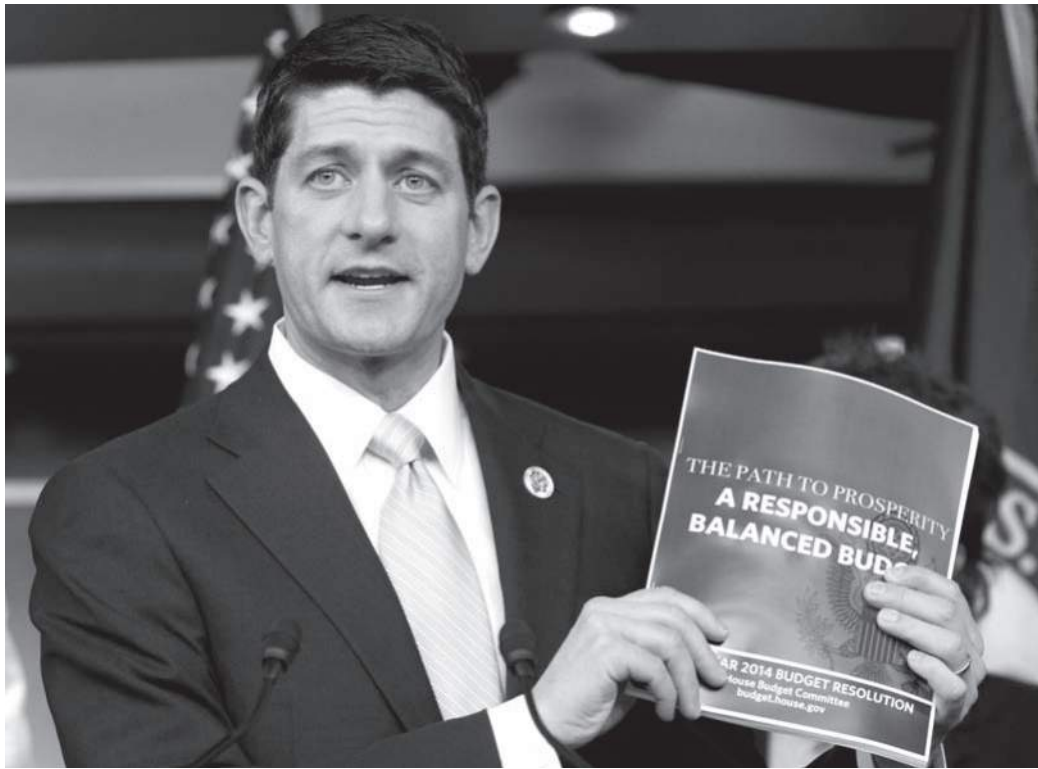
Ryan's budget: GOP takes aim at Dem spending plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans redoubled their efforts to roll back signature accomplishments of President Barack Obama on Tuesday, offering a slashing budget plan that would repeal new health care subsidies and cut spending across a wide swath of programs dear to Obama and his Democratic allies.

The GOP plan was immediately rejected by the White House as an approach that “just doesn’t add up” and would harm America’s middle class. Obama said the plan would “slash deeply” into programs such as Medicaid.

Obama has rebuffed similar GOP plans two years in a row and ran strongly against the ideas when winning re-election last year—when its chief author, Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., was on the Republican ticket.

Ryan’s budget illustrates the stark differences in the vi-



House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., holds up a copy of the House Budget Committee 2014 Budget Resolution as he speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

sions of tea party-backed Republicans and Obama and his Democratic allies about the size and role of government—with no obvious avenues for compromise.

Obama, in an ABC-TV interview Tuesday, said he would not seek to balance the federal budget in 10 years, as Ryan’s plan attempts to do, when he submits his fiscal blueprint to Congress next month.

“My goal is not to chase a balanced budget just for the sake of balance,” he said. “My goal is how do we grow the economy, put people back to work, and if we do that we are going to be bringing in more revenue.”

Senate Democrats are responding with a plan that would repeal automatic spending cuts that began to take effect earlier this month while offering \$100 billion in new spending for infrastructure and job training. The Democratic

counter won’t be officially unveiled until Wednesday, but its rough outlines were described by aides. They spoke only on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to describe it publicly.

That plan by Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., would raise taxes by almost \$1 trillion over a decade and cut spending by almost \$1 trillion over the same period. But more than half of the combined deficit savings would be used to repeal the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts that began to hit the economy earlier this month and are slated to continue through the decade.

All this was in the works as Obama trekked to the Capitol to join Senate Democrats for their weekly closed-door policy luncheon as part of his bipartisan outreach efforts to lawmakers in both House and Senate on the budget.

Senate panel approves gun background check

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats gave a boost Tuesday to the pillar of President Barack Obama’s plans for reducing gun violence, pushing a bill requiring nearly universal federal background checks for firearms buyers through the Senate Judiciary Committee over solid Republican opposition.

The proposal still faces a difficult path through Congress, where GOP lawmakers say it would have little impact on crime and warn that it is a precursor to a federal registry of gun owners. Such a listing is forbidden by federal law and is anathema to conservatives and the National Rifle Association.

The committee approved the bill 10-8, supported by every Democrat and opposed by all Republicans. It would require background checks for transactions between private individuals—they are now mandatory only for sales by licensed gun dealers—and expand a system designed to keep firearms from criminals, those with major mental problems and others.

“This isn’t going to be a perfect bill,” said its sponsor, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., acknowledging that it wouldn’t end gun violence. “But it will sure reduce crimes.”

The panel also voted 14-4 for a measure providing an additional \$40 million annually for school safety improvements like classroom locks and training for teachers. Four Republicans joined Democrats in backing that measure, which initially called for a higher figure that was reduced in bargaining between Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Awaiting a committee vote Thursday is a proposal by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. That bill is expected to win panel approval but die in the full Senate when the chamber considers gun legislation, probably in April.

Tuesday’s session came as lawmakers wrestle over responding to December’s carnage at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., that took the lives of 20 students and six educators. It also underscored the hurdles faced by expanded background checks, which has been seen as the most potent step lawmakers could take that has a fighting chance of passing Congress.

“Mass shootings would continue to occur despite universal background checks,” said Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, the committee’s top Republican. “Criminals will continue to steal guns and buy them illegally to circumvent the requirements. When that happens, we will be back here debating whether gun registration is needed. And when registration fails, then the next step is gun confiscation.”

Schumer responded that that assertion “demeans the argument.”

Schumer said he is continuing to negotiate with Republicans in hopes of crafting a compromise background-check bill. Talks failed with conservative Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

Schumer also faces potential defections from a half-dozen moderate Democrats from Republican-leaning states in the South and West who face re-election next year.

Views on guns, immigration

How registered voters responded to questions in a McClatchy-Marist poll on gun control and immigration

- Background checks for private gun sales and sales at gun shows?

Favor 84%

Oppose 15

Unsure: 2%

- Ban on assault weapons?

Favor 55

Oppose 41

Unsure: 3%

- Ban on ammunition clips that hold more than 10 bullets?

Favor 52

Oppose 45

Unsure: 3%

- Changes in immigration policy should be:

Mostly about protecting U.S. borders 55

Mostly about a path to citizenship for those in U.S. 41

Unsure: 4%

- For the president, Congress, immigration policy should be:

An immediate priority 37

Priority for next few years 46

Not a priority: 17%

NOTE: Figures do not total 100 percent due to rounding

Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 1,068 registered voters, March 4-7, 2013; margin of error: +/-3 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

Blaze erupts on La. waterway after pipeline struck

LAFITTE, La. (AP)—A tugboat pushing an oil barge struck a gas pipeline in a bayou south of New Orleans on Tuesday night, igniting a blaze that burned for hours and left four people injured, one severely.

Ensign Tanner Stiehl told The Associated Press the collision occurred at about 6 p.m. Central on Bayou Perot, in a marshy area about 30 miles south of New Orleans.

The tugboat and barge were engulfed in flames, and heavy smoke billowed from the scene.

“All crew members were able to exit the tug; the captain reportedly suffered second to third-degree degree burns,” the Coast Guard said in a news release early Wednesday.

WWL-TV reported that all four people on the vessel were accounted for, but that one person was severely burned and was being treated at West Jefferson Medical Center. The station reported the person, identified as the captain of the tug, was transferred to the burn center at Baton Rouge General Hospital.

Stiehl said the pipeline is owned by Chevron. It was in shallow water and had liquid petroleum gas in it.

He said the company has isolated the pipeline from other mains, “so only whatever was in the pipeline will be able to burn.”

Stiehl said the barge was carrying oil and “there have

been reports of oil in the water.” The Coast Guard said ES&H has been hired to handle the oil spill response.

It was not immediately known who owns the 154-foot oil barge.

“The Coast Guard is working with federal, state and local agencies in response to this incident to ensure the safety of responders and contain and clean up any oil that is leaking,” the news release said.

Stiehl identified the 47-foot tug boat as the Shanon E. Settoon. Settoon Towing of Pierre Part, La., lists the tug boat among its vessels on its website.

Stiehl said no one lives near the site of the fire, so no evacuations were ordered.

LA schools settle claims over lewd ‘tasting games’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles school district will pay millions of dollars to settle claims and lawsuits filed by students and families from an elementary school where a third-grade teacher was accused of spoon-feeding children semen in what he called “tasting games,” lawyers in the cases said Tuesday.

District officials did not reveal the total amount of the settlement, but attorney Raymond Boucher, who represents several Miramonte Elementary School students, said each claimant will receive \$470,000.

District General Counsel David Holmquist said the settlement covers 58 of the 191 claims and lawsuits filed by students and parents against the district after the January 2012

arrest of former third-grade teacher Mark Berndt on 23 charges of lewd behavior spanning five years at Miramonte.

A few of the cases involved another Miramonte teacher, Martin Springer, who was charged with lewd acts on a child in a case involving a second-grader that authorities said was fondled in class in 2009.

The accusation surfaced after Berndt’s arrest, Holmquist said.

The 58 people involved in the settlement are all students, he said.

Prosecutors said in Berndt’s “tasting games” he fed students his semen on cookies and by spoon, sometimes blindfolding and photographing them. Berndt, who taught for 32 years at the South Los

Angeles school, has pleaded not guilty in the criminal case.

Springer has also pleaded not guilty.

The allegations against Berndt came to light when a drug-store photo technician noticed dozens of odd photos of blindfolded children and reported them to authorities. Investigators said they discovered a plastic spoon in Berndt’s classroom trash bin that was found to contain traces of semen.

Boucher, who represents 13 of the 58 students in the settlement, said proving some of the claims would have been a problem at trial.

Some children did not have photographs of themselves eating the cookies laced with a milky white substance, or of being fed spoonfuls of it, he said.

Asia

History shows NKorean pattern: wait, then attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Recent Korean history reveals a sobering possibility: It may only be a matter of time before North Korea launches a sudden, deadly attack on the South. And perhaps more unsettling, Seoul has vowed that this time, it will respond with an even stronger blow.

Humiliated by past attacks, South Korea has promised—as recently as Tuesday—to hit back hard at the next assault from the North, opening up the prospect that a skirmish could turn into a wider war. Lost in the headline-making North Korean bluster about nuclear strikes on Washington in response to U.N. sanctions is a single sentence in a North Korean army Supreme Command statement of March 5. It said North Korea “will make a strike of justice at any target anytime as it pleases without limit.”

Those words have a chilling link to the recent past, when Pyongyang, angry over perceived slights, took its time before exacting revenge on rival South Korea. Vows of retaliation after naval clashes with South Korea in 1999 and 2009, for example, were followed by more bloodshed, including attacks blamed on North Korea that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The body that controls North Korea’s military is dismissing South Korea’s new president, Park Geun-hye, with a sexist comment about the “venomous swish” of her skirt.

An unidentified spokesman for the National Defense Commission’s armed forces ministry also repeated North Korean vows from recent days of a “merciless retaliation” over ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills. The statement Wednesday reiterates another North Korean promise to no longer abide by the armistice that ended the Korean War.

Analysts say the torrent of warlike rhetoric that has followed U.N. sanctions last week over Pyongyang’s third nuclear test is meant partly to boost loyalty for young leader Kim Jong Un and to win aid from Seoul and Washington.

Park, the daughter of late South Korean dictator President Park Chung-hee, took office Feb. 25.

Those attacks three years ago “are vivid reminders of the regime’s capabilities and intentions,” Bruce Klingner, a former U.S. intelligence official now at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, wrote in a recent think tank posting.

Almost a mirror image of the current tensions happened in 2009, when the U.N. approved sanctions over North Korean missile and nuclear tests, and Pyongyang responded with fury. In November of that year, Seoul claimed victory in a sea battle with the North, and Pyongyang vowed revenge.

In March 2010, the *Cheonan*, a 1,200-ton South Korean warship, exploded and sank in the

Yellow Sea, killing 46 sailors. A South Korean-led international investigation found that North Korea torpedoed the ship, a claim Pyongyang denies.

The *Cheonan* sinking may have been retaliation for the naval defeat four months earlier, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea specialist at Seoul’s Dongguk University.

In November 2010, North Korea sent a warning to South Korea to cancel a routine live-fire artillery drill planned on Yeonpyeong Island, which is only seven miles from North Korea and lies in Yellow Sea waters that North Korea claims as its own.

South Korea went ahead with the drills, firing, Seoul says, into waters away from North Korean territory. North Korea sent artillery shells raining down on the island, killing two civilians and two marines.

South Korea responded with artillery fire of its own, but the government of then-President Lee Myung-bak was severely criticized for what was seen as a slow, weak response. Lee, a conservative who infuriated North Korea by ending the previous liberal government’s “sunshine policy” of huge aid shipments with few strings attached, vowed massive retaliation if hit again by the North.

The government of newly inaugurated President Park Geun-hye, also a conservative, has made similar comments, though she has also said she will try to build trust with North Korea and explore renewed dialogue and aid shipments.



In this Dec. 12, 2012 file photo released by Korean Central News Agency, North Korea’s Unha-3 rocket lifts off from the Sohae launch pad in Tongchang-ri, North Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysian soldier, 3 Filipinos killed in Borneo

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia’s army chief says a soldier and three Filipino gunmen have been killed in the latest clash over a Philippine Muslim clan’s incursion into Borneo. Security forces have waged several gunbattles since March 1 against about 200 Filipinos who began occupying a coastal village last month to revive a long-dormant territorial claim to Malaysia’s eastern Sabah state in Borneo. Air-strikes and mortar attacks drove the Filipinos out of the village last week, but many are believed to be hiding in nearby palm oil plantations. Armed forces chief Zulkifeli Zin said a firefight left one soldier and three Filipinos dead Tuesday morning.

Sumatran tiger mauls Indonesian farmer to death

MEDAN, Indonesia (AP)—A park official says a rare Sumatran tiger has mauled a farmer

to death in western Indonesia, prompting terrified villagers to call for the animal to be killed. The official at Batang Gadis National Park, Yudi Santoso, said Wednesday that 32-year-old Karman Lubis was attacked this week while working on a rubber plantation near the park in North Sumatra province. His mangled body was found Tuesday about 1 kilometer (less than a mile) from the plantation.

Japan, US mark anniversary of battle for Iwo Jima

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and the U.S. are marking the 68th anniversary one of the most iconic battles of World War II on the tiny island of Iwo Jima. Representatives of the Japanese soldiers who died, government officials and a handful of U.S. veterans gathered Wednesday on the island to remember the battle that began on Feb. 19, 1945, and officially ended when the volcanic crag was declared secure by the U.S. on March 26, 1945. The fighting claimed 6,821 Ameri-

can and 21,570 Japanese lives. About 12,000 Japanese and 218 Americans are still classified as missing in action.

Thailand urged to probe shootings of Rohingya

BANGKOK (AP)—A rights group is urging Thailand to investigate an alleged shooting by Thai sailors that killed at least two Rohingya last month. Human Rights Watch said Wednesday its investigation showed Thai sailors opened fire at a group of asylum seekers off the coast of Phang Nga province. It called for Thai authorities to prosecute officers, including those who gave orders to fire, if excessive force was used. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra told foreign journalists on Monday the government do not encourage violence and will investigate the matter. She didn’t give details. Rohingya Muslims face discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, and tens of thousands of them flee by boat each year to seek asylum in other countries.

Catholics look to next pope to improve China ties

BEIJING (AP)—Shanghai’s would-be Catholic bishop has been a virtual prisoner in that city’s main seminary for nine months and counting, his penalty for openly challenging China’s ruling Communist Party by withdrawing from the country’s official bodies that oversee the church.

The treatment dealt out to Thaddeus Ma Daqin is the most glaring and high-level example of China’s heavy-handed control of the church and the challenge that poses for the Roman Catholic Church as cardinals gather to choose a new pope.

As the College of Cardinals meets at the Vatican for a second day, the fate of the church in China is receiving scant attention amid bigger concerns over priest shortages, clerical sexual abuse scandals, and giving greater voice to women and laypeople. Yet China will certainly

be an issue before the next pontiff, not only because of continuing repression of Catholics in the country, but also because China’s rising economic and diplomatic status is propelling it ever more quickly toward the center of global affairs.

“It would be worth it to see China’s authorities open their minds and lose their fear and distrust of religion,” parishioner John Liu said while standing in the weather-beaten courtyard of Beijing’s 400-year-old Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

He was hopeful the new pope could help the mend ties with China, but didn’t think it could happen quickly. “It will take time,” he said.

At his ordination last July, Ma told the congregation he was withdrawing from China’s official bodies to focus on his pastoral work, a gesture of independence that en-

raged religious officials present at Shanghai’s St. Ignatius Cathedral.

They took him directly from the church to suburban Sheshan seminary for what was at first termed a retreat. In December, they revoked his bishop title, saying he had broken Chinese rules by taking steps to ensure his ordination was acceptable to Rome. The Vatican has refused to accept the move.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI made improving relations with Beijing a priority during his eight-year pontificate, writing a historic letter to the Chinese faithful in 2007 in hopes of uniting the divided church under his wing. He created two Hong Kong-based cardinal positions, and appointed a senior Hong Kong archbishop to a top Vatican office—giving the church in China a voice in Holy See decision-making.

World

Syria's war affects a generation of children



In this on Monday, Feb. 11, 2013 photo, a Syrian woman who fled her home with her family due to fighting between rebels and government forces, feeds her grandchildren inside their tent, in the southern city of Tyre, Lebanon.

BEIRUT (AP)—Mohammed works at a Beirut supermarket where he waits on clients and carries their groceries home for a small tip that the 14-year-old saves to send later to his family in a village in northeastern Syria.

He is among thousands of Syrian children who have dropped out of school and fled two years of conflict that have claimed the lives of more than 70,000 people, including thousands of children.

He is also one of countless

young Syrians now frequently seen wandering the streets of Beirut, pumping gas at stations and sometimes begging for money.

Aid groups warn that some two million children in Syria are facing, among other things, malnutrition, disease, early marriage and severe trauma as a result of the civil war.

To mark the second anniversary of the uprising against President Bashar Assad, the Britain-based charity Save the Children released a report Wednesday en-

titled "Childhood Under Fire." It says the conflict has left many children traumatized, unable to go to schools and struggling to find enough to eat.

"I have to say I have been shocked and horrified by the stories that I've heard from the children here in Lebanon who fled from Syria," Justin Forsyth, chief executive of Save the Children, told The Associated Press at the group's offices in Beirut.

"You never want to hear a child talk about watching their

friend killed or their father tortured in front of them or their brother shot through the leg," added Forsyth, who spent several days in Lebanon last week meeting children among the estimated 320,000 Syrian refugees who have fled to the neighboring country.

Syria's children will need decades to heal from the trauma, he warned.

Similarly, a report issued by UNICEF Tuesday said unrelenting violence, massive population displacement, and damage to infrastructure and essential services caused by the Syrian conflict risk leaving an entire generation of children scarred for life.

"As millions of children in-

side Syria and across the region witness their past and their futures disappear amidst the rubble and destruction of this prolonged conflict, the risk of them becoming a lost generation grows every day," said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

The report, marking the 2-year anniversary of the crisis, said that in areas where the fighting is most intense, few people have access to fresh water. Also, one in five schools have been destroyed, damaged, or is being used to shelter displaced families.

In Aleppo, the center of

months of fighting, only 6 percent of children are attending school, the report said.

At the same time, children are suffering the trauma of seeing family members and friends killed, while being terrified by the sounds and scenes of conflict.

While the reports did not give a number of children killed or wounded in the civil war, the Violations Documentation center in Syria, a key activist group that keeps tracks of Syria's dead, wounded and missing persons, says that some 5,500 children, including 3,800 boys and nearly 1,700 girls, have been killed in the past two years.

Black smoke from chapel chimney: No pope yet

VATICAN CITY (AP)—This time there was no doubt. There was no new pope yet, and the mystery of who—and when—was as thick as the unmistakable heavy black smoke billowing from the Sistine Chapel chimney.

As thousands waited in a cold night rain in St. Peter's Square, the cardinals signaled Tuesday they had failed on their first attempt to find a leader for the world's 1.2 billion Catholics and their troubled church.

"It's black, it's black, it's waaay black!" screamed Eliza Nagle, a 21-year-old Notre Dame theology major on an exchange program in Rome, as the smoke poured from the 6-foot-high copper chimney at 7:41 p.m.

"They definitely got the color right this time," agreed Father Andrew Gawrych, an American priest based in Rome, referring to the confusion over the smoke during the 2005 conclave that elected

Pope Benedict XVI.

That was thanks to special smoke flares—akin to those used in soccer matches or protests—lit in the chapel ovens to make the burned ballots black, the sign that cardinals must come back for another day of voting Wednesday.

Tuesday's drama unfolded against the backdrop of the turmoil unleashed by Benedict's surprise resignation and the exposure of deep divisions among cardinals grappling with whether they need a manager to clean up the Vatican's dysfunctional bureaucracy or a pastor who can inspire Catholics at a time of waning faith and growing secularism.

Surrounded by Michelangelo's imposing frescoes portraying the beginning and the end of the world, cardinals locked themselves into the Sistine Chapel following a final appeal for unity by their dean and set about the business of electing the 266th pope.

Syrian army eroded by defections, battle deaths

BEIRUT (AP)—A top Syrian cleric's appeal to young men to join the army raised the question of whether President Bashar Assad is running out of soldiers, prompting a pro-government newspaper to reassure readers Tuesday that the military can keep fighting insurgents for years to come.

Syria's civil war, with its large-scale defections, thousands of soldiers killed and multiple fronts, has eroded one of the Arab world's biggest armies, with pro-Assad militias increasingly filling in for troops.

But while the rebels have scored military and diplomatic gains, the regime is far from its breaking point.

Assad appears to have stopped trying to retake all of the rebel-held areas, lacking the manpower to do so. But his forces have pinned down opposition fighters with artillery and airstrikes, while repelling rebel assaults on the capital of

Damascus and other regime strongholds.

In this scenario, the regime can hang on for months, said Joseph Holliday, a Syria analyst at the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War. "The opposition is definitely ascendant, and Bashar is going down, (but) it's a question of time," he said.

Syria's troop strength moved into the spotlight with a call for a general mobilization by Grand Mufti Ahmad Badreddine Hassoun, the country's top state-appointed Sunni Muslim cleric and Assad loyalist. He told state TV on Sunday that Syrians must rally to defend their country against a "global conspiracy."

On Tuesday, the pro-government al-Watan newspaper dismissed speculation that the mufti's appeal was a sign of attrition among the troops. The army is "fine" and troops "have been waging since for the past

two years with unprecedented valor and courage," the newspaper said in a commentary. The army can keep fighting for years, it asserted.

Experts say precise figures on rebel and regime troop strengths are difficult to come by. The Syrian military does not release detailed information and last year stopped publishing data on soldiers killed.

Rebel groups often operate locally, with considerable autonomy, despite attempts by Syria's main opposition group to introduce a centralized military command.

The uprising against Assad began two years ago, initially peacefully. In response to a regime crackdown, it turned into an armed insurgency and finally, last summer, into a full-scale civil war. The conflict has killed more than 70,000 people and displaced about 4 million of Syria's 22 million people, according to U.N. estimates.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali media outlets go silent over editor's arrest

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The airwaves in Mali's capital fell silent on Tuesday and newspapers didn't print a morning edition in protest over the arrest last week of an editor who published an open letter challenging the salary of the country's coup leader. Boukary Daou, editor-in-chief of The Republican newspaper, was taken away by agents from Mali's intelligence service on March 6, soon after his newspaper published a letter from an army officer denouncing Capt. Amadou Haya Sanogo's recently-decreed salary of \$8,000 per month, an incredibly high salary in the impoverished country. The letter argues that the salary—as much as 26 times what Sanogo earned before last year's coup—is in fact an incentive for future coups. Sanogo seized power a year ago last March. Faced with international sanctions, he was forced to relinquish control just weeks later, but succeeded in negotiating a golden parachute for himself, including the salary of an ex-head of state. Despite officially

stepping down, country watchers say Sanogo remains the power behind the throne, as Daou's arrest seven days ago underscores.

Another life sentence for Argentine ex-dictator

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's last dictator, Reynaldo Benito Bignone, has received another sentence of life in prison, this time for human rights violations involving detainees inside the Campo de Mayo military base. As many as 5,000 so-called subversives were held inside the base during Argentina's 1976-1983 dictatorship. Most were killed and made to disappear. This trial ended with the 85-year-old Bignone convicted of illegal arrests, kidnapping, robbery, torture and murder against 23 of the detainees, including seven women who gave birth inside the clandestine prison. Bignone is already jailed for other crimes, but the additional conviction pleased Gaston Mena, whose mother gave birth to a sibling who was probably illegally adopted after the mother was killed.

Focus

NARAH, Japan (AP)—Two years after the triple calamities of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster ravaged Japan's north-eastern Pacific coast, debris containing asbestos, lead, PCBs—and perhaps most worrying—radioactive waste due to the crippled Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant looms as a threat for the region.

So far, disposal of debris from the disasters is turning out to have been anything but clean. Workers often lacking property oversight, training or proper equipment have dumped contaminated waste with scant regard for regulations or safety, as organized crime has infiltrated the cleanup process.

Researchers are only beginning to analyze environmental samples for potential health implications from the various toxins swirled in the petri dish of the disaster zone—including dioxins, benzene, cadmium and organic waste-related, said Shoji F. Nakayama of the government-affiliated National Institute for Environmental Studies.

Apart from some inflammatory reactions to some substances in the dust and debris, the longer-term health risks remain unclear, he said.

The mountains of rubble and piles of smashed cars and scooters scattered along the coast only hint at the scale of the debris removed so far from coastlines and river valleys stripped bare by the tsunami. To clear, sort and process the rubble—and a vastly larger amount of radiation-contaminated soil and other debris near the nuclear plant in Fukushima, the government is relying on big construction companies whose multi-layer subcontracting systems are infiltrated by criminal gangs, or yakuza.

In January, police arrested a senior member of Japan's second-largest yakuza group, Sumiyoshi Kai, on suspicion of illegally dispatching three contract workers to Date, a city in Fukushima struggling with relatively high radioactive contamination, through another construction company and pocketing one-third of their pay.

He told interrogators he came up with the plot to "make money out of clean-up projects" because the daily pay for such government projects, at 15,000-17,000 yen (\$160-\$180), was far higher than for other construction jobs, said police spokesman Hiraku Hasumi.

Gangsters have long been involved in industrial waste handling, and police say they suspect gangsters are systematically targeting reconstruction projects, swindling money from low-interest lending schemes for disaster-hit residents and illegally mobilizing construction and clean-up workers.

Meanwhile, workers complain of docked pay, unpaid

hazard allowances—which should be 10,000 yen, or \$110, a day—and of inadequate safety equipment and training for handling the hazardous waste they are clearing from towns, shores and forests after meltdowns of three nuclear plant reactor cores at Fukushima Dai-Ichi released radiation into the surrounding air, soil and ocean.

"We are only part of a widespread problem," said a 56-year-old cleanup worker, who asked to be identified only by his last name, Nakamura, out of fear of retaliation. "Everyone, from bureaucrats to construction giants to tattooed gangsters, is trying to prey on decontamination projects. And the government is looking the other way."

During a recent visit to Naraha, a deserted town of 8,000 that is now a weedy no-man's land within the 20-kilometer (12-mile) restricted zone around the crippled nuclear plant, workers wearing regular work clothes and surgical masks were scraping away topsoil, chopping tree branches and washing down roofs.

"They told me only how to cut grass, but nothing about radiation," said Munenori Kagaya, 59, who worked in the nearby town of Tomioka, which is off-limits due to high radiation.

Naraha's mayor, Yukie Matsumoto, said that early on, he and other local officials were worried over improper handling of the 1.5 trillion yen (\$16 billion) cleanup, but refrained from raising the issue, until public allegations of dozens of instances of mishandling of radioactive waste prompted an investigation by the Environment Ministry, which is handling decontamination of the 11 worst-affected towns and villages.

"I want them to remind them again what the cleanup is for," Matsumoto said in an interview. "Its purpose is to improve the environment so that people can safely return to live here. It's not just to meet a deadline and get it over with."

The ministry said it found only five questionable cases, though it acknowledged a need for better oversight. Another probe, by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry found rampant labor violations—inadequate education and protection from radiation exposure, a lack of medical checks and unpaid salaries and hazard pay—at nearly half the cleanup operations in Fukushima.

About half of the 242 contractors involved were reprimanded



A fishing boat washed ashore by the March 11, 2011 tsunami sits in a deserted port area in Kesennuma, Miyagi prefecture, northeastern Japan, at dawn on Monday, March 11, 2013.

Japan's cleanup lags from tsunami, nuke accident

for violations, the ministry said.

An Environment Ministry official in charge of decontamination said the government has little choice but to rely on big contractors, and to give them enough leeway to get the work done.

"We have to admit that only the major construction companies have the technology and manpower to do such large-scale government projects," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the issue. "If cleanup projects are overseen too strictly, it will most likely cause further delays and labor shortages."

Minoru Hara, deputy manager at a temporary waste storage site in Naraha, defended the 3,000 workers doing the work—the only people allowed to stay in the town.

"Most of the cleanup workers are working sincerely and hard," Hara said. "They are doing a good job of washing down houses and cleaning up gardens. Such criticism is really unfair, and bad for morale."

Labor shortages, lax oversight and massive amounts of funds budgeted for the clean-up are a recipe for cheating. And plenty of money is at stake: the cleanup of a 20-kilometer (12-mile) segment of an expressway whose worst contamination exceeds allowable radiation limits by 10 times will cost 2.1 billion yen (\$22.5 billion), said Yoshinari Yoshida, an Environment Ministry official.

"While decontamination is a

must, the government is bearing the burden. We have to consider the cost factor," said deputy Environment Minister Shinji Inoue as he watched workers pressure wash the road's surface, a process Yoshida said was expected to reduce contamination by half.

The cleanup is bound to overrun its budget by several times, as delays deepen due to a lack of long-term storage options as opposition among local residents in many areas hardens. It will leave Fukushima, whose huge farm and fisheries industry has been walloped by radiation fears, with 31 million tons of nuclear waste or more. Around Naraha, huge temporary dumps of radioactive waste, many football fields in size and stacked two huge bags deep, are scattered around the disaster zone.

The cleanups extend beyond Fukushima, to Iwate in the north and Chiba, which neighbors Tokyo, in the south. And the concerns are not limited to radiation. A walk through areas in Miyagi and Iwate that already were cleared of debris finds plenty of toxic detritus, such as batteries from cell phones, electrical wiring, plastic piping and gas canisters.

Japan has the technology to safely burn up most toxins at very high temperatures, with minimal emissions of PCBs, mercury and other poisons. But mounds of wood chips in a sea-side processing area near Kesennuma were emitting smoke into the air one recent winter

afternoon, possibly from spontaneous combustion.

Workers at that site had high-grade gas masks, an improvement from the early days, when many working in the disaster zone had only surgical masks, at most, to protect them from contaminated dust and smoke.

Overall, how well the debris and contaminants are being handled depends largely on the location.

Sendai, the biggest city in the region, sorted debris as it was collected and sealed the surfaces of areas used to store debris for processing to protect the groundwater, thanks to technical advice from its sister-city Kyoto, home to many experts who advised the government in its cleanup of the 1995 earthquake in the Kobe-Osaka area that killed more than 6,400 people.

But Ishinomaki, a city of more than 160,000, collected its debris first and is only gradually sorting and processing it, said the U.S.-educated Nakayama, who worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before returning to Japan.

"There were no technical experts there for the waste management side," he said. "They did some good work with chemical monitoring but in total, risk assessment, risk management, unfortunately they did not have that expertise."

Ultimately, just as they are choosing to live with contamination from chemicals and other toxins, the authorities may have to reconsider their determination to completely clean up the radiation, given the effort's cost and limited effectiveness, experts say.

Regarding the nuclear accident, "there has been so much emphasis on decontamination that no other options were considered," said Hiroshi Suzuki, a professor emeritus at Tohoku University in Sendai and chairman of the Fukushima Prefectural Reconstruction

Committee.

Some places, such as playgrounds, obviously must be cleaned up. But others, such as forests, should just be left alone, since gathering or burning radioactive materials concentrates them—the opposite of what is needed since the more diluted they are, the better.

To a certain extent, policy is being dictated by politics, said Suzuki.

Before the accident, residents believed they were completely safe, he said. "The authorities want to be able to tell them once again that the area is safe. To do this they need to return it to the state that it was in before the accident."

Naraha resident Yoshimasa Murakami, a 79-year-old farmer, said he has low expectations.

A month after the government started cleaning his spacious home he has not seen a major decrease in radiation, he said while sitting on a balcony overlooking his traditional Japanese garden.

He set a dosimeter on the grass. It measured radiation nearly five times the target level and almost the same as the 1.09 microsieverts per hour found when officials surveyed it in December.

Murakami had come to the house for the day. He, his wife and daughter now live 50 kilometers (30 miles) away in Koriyama city.

He visits a few times a week to keep an eye on the cleanup workers. At nearly 80, Murakami says he doesn't mind about the radiation, but his wife does. And if he returns, his other relatives and grandchildren will be afraid to visit.

"Then, what's the point?" he said.

"I don't think decontamination is going to work," Murakami said. "The nuclear crisis is not fully over, and you never know, something still can go wrong."

Environment

Compost to feed your garden

"Crafting compost may be the best thing you can do for your soil and garden," says Western Pacific Tropical Research Center soil scientist and University of Guam professor Dr. Mohammad Golabi. He has been researching the effect of compost on plant growth, soil quality improvement for many years.

Organic material such as kitchen scraps, leaves, grass cuttings, shredded paper, and cardboard can be converted

from waste to organic fertilizer through the composting process. Bacteria and microorganisms work to break down these materials into a rich mixture that, once it is matured, may be added to the soil for improving physical properties, balance soil chemistry, increase available nutrients for plants, and improve other soil properties such as water holding capacity of the soils during dry conditions.

Golabi has been also moni-

toring the possibility of adverse effects of compost on ground water. Golabi's research for this particular project is being supported through the federally funded T-STAR grants as part of the WPTRC research programs at UOG.

"In this project we are trying to answer three main questions: by adding compost to the soil, what is the impact, on soil, on plants, and on the groundwater," says Golabi. "It was un-

certain whether the addition of paper and cardboard to the compost would allow unfavorable trace elements to leach into the ground water."

"Our research showed that with the addition of compost to our experimental plots, the soil quality was improved, plants were healthier and more resistant to insects and disease than plots using chemical fertilizers," states Golabi. "Also, crop yields were higher and of better quality from the fields treated with compost compared with fields treated with chemical fertilizers."

Using instruments to measure the leachate, Golabi and his team have found that the soil with added compost released nutrients slowly, thereby allowing plants to effectively absorb the nutrients. In contrast with the fertilized fields, almost 40 percent of the fertilizer was found below the root zone, where the plants cannot utilize it.

"I highly encourage everyone to convert their organic waste (kitchen scraps, grass cuttings, etc.) to compost in order to enrich the home garden soils for healthier plants and higher quality produce."

"In a study we did in collaboration with the University of Okayama in Japan, we found that almost 80 percent of garbage generated in Guam's households is organic in nature

(in another word compostable). Composting would reduce waste slated for landfill while improving soil quality through adding mature compost to farmlands and garden soils," says Golabi.

For more information on successful backyard and/or large scale composting contact Golabi at his University of Guam Soils Laboratory at: 735-2134/2100. (UOG)



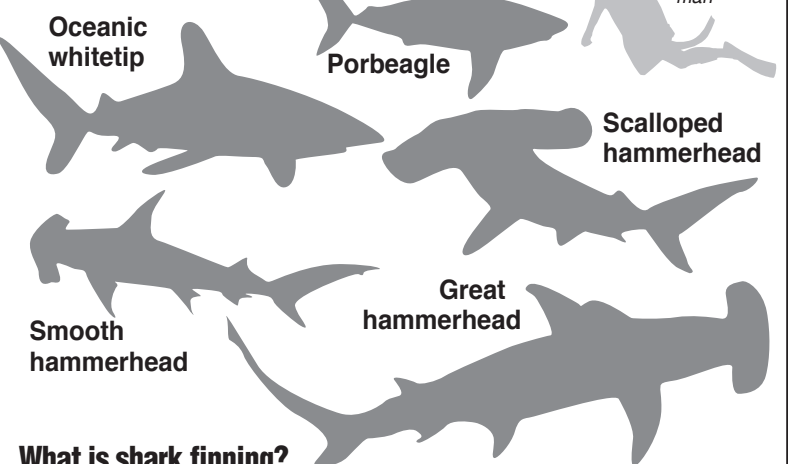
OLYMPIA TERRAL

Large-scale composting at the WPTRC Agriculture Experiment Station in Yigo.

Saving sharks

The demand for shark fin soup is driving many species of these large fish to near extinction.

Critically endangered



What is shark finning?

- During finning, a shark is brought on deck; fins are sliced off
- Shark is thrown back in the water to die
- Finning only utilizes five percent of the shark's body weight; shark meat is considered inferior to other fish

Source: Shark Alliance, Oceana

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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DO YOUR PART

Solutions for the trickiest of recycling problems

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

There is a popular topic that I like to tackle every so often. It's how to recycle items that may be a bit tricky. Never fear, you can Do Your Part to find eco-friendly solutions. Here are few items that I get asked about and ways you can get them all responsibly recycled.

MATTRESSES

These bulky items usually get replaced around every ten years. So what happens to the old ones? They usually go to waste in a landfill despite the fact that most of its materials are recyclable. Some full service recycling centers will accept them for materials. If the one where you live doesn't, many homeless shelters will accept mattresses in good condition. Also, if you are buying a new mattress, some companies will take away your old one for free. However, it's up to you to find out if yours will be recycled. Companies such as Sleep America and Emattress are committed to recycling and repurposing the old ones by giving them to low-income families.

MERCURY THERMOMETERS

Mercury thermometers are becoming harder and harder to find. That's because many states don't even allow them to be sold because of the toxic mercury inside them. So if you have an old one you want to get rid of, the last thing you should do is toss it in the trash. Instead, contact your local health department to see if they participate in a mercury thermometer exchange program. Many will give you a free digital thermometer in return. You can also bring those mercury thermometers to a full service-recycling center.

CABLES AND CORDS

Who doesn't have a bunch of cables and cords collecting dust somewhere? These are considered electronic waste (e-waste) and contain materials that can be recycled. Many Best Buy stores will accept them for recycling as will Goodwill collection sites across the country. Check out DoYourPart.com/Columns for more e-waste solutions -- including ones that could earn you a little cash.

EYEGLASSES

When it's time to get a new pair of eyeglasses, you may find that your old pair of glasses still has plenty of life left in them. Lions Club International successfully collects more than 20 million pairs a year and gives them to people who need them the most. Unite for Sight also will take old pairs as will the New Eyes for the Needy organization.

Toothpaste Tubes and Toothbrushes

How many tubes of toothpaste do you think you've thrown in the trash after you've gotten that last squeeze? What about old toothbrushes? Once you're done with them there are ways to get them recycled. In fact, Terracycle will pay for you to send them in. From there, they are made into plastic pellets that can then be molded into everything from playground equipment to garden tools.

Do Your Part and to get your trickiest of items recycled. It's actually a whole lot easier than you might have thought!

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living, available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Bienvenido Madayag "Mang Ben"

Born on October 19, 1946 and was called to eternal rest on February 18, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his

Father: Pedro Madayag

Mother: Pomplina M. Madayag

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his children:

Son: Benjie T. Madayag & Family

Daughter: Jennifer T. Madayag & Family

Daughter: Imelda T. Madayag & Daughter

Son: Nelson T. Madayag & Family

Final viewing will be on Friday, March 15, 2013 between 2:00pm -3:00pm at CHC Chapel

His body will be flown to Suyo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines on Saturday, March 16, 2013

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Maraming salamat po!
Janet T. Madayag & Family

Life & Style

Reports: Iran plans suing Hollywood over 'Argo'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran is planning to sue Hollywood over the Oscar-winning "Argo" because of the movie's allegedly "unrealistic portrayal" of the country, Iranian media reported Tuesday.

Several news outlets, including the pro-reform Shargh daily, said French lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre is in Iran for talks with officials over how and where to file the lawsuit. She is also the lawyer for notorious Venezuelan-born terrorist Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos the Jackal.

Following the 1979 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days, but six embassy staffers were sheltered by the Canadian ambassador. Their escape, using a fake movie as a cover story, is recounted in "Argo."

After its Oscar win in February, Iranian officials dismissed "Argo" as pro-CIA, anti-Iran propaganda.

The lawyer told the semi-official Mehr news agency that she will start a campaign to show that Argo is a lie, while pressing to stop distribution of the movie.

"We will be able to block distributors of the movie, force them to apologize and challenge them to confess that the movie is nothing but a sheer lie," the lawyer said.

Though the movie isn't showing in any Iranian theaters, many Iranians have seen it on bootleg DVDs and it set off a spirited debate that exposed a genera-



In this Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013 photo, Tehran City Council member Masoomeh Ebtekar, who was one of the students who occupied the U.S. Embassy in 1979 and acted as the Iranian students' spokeswoman, speaks in an interview with The Associated Press, in Tehran, Iran. Ebtekar says the Oscar-winning film "Argo" exaggerates the violence among crowds that stormed the compound in November 1979.

tional divide. Iranians who took part in the 1979 Islamic Revolution picked apart the portrayals of Tehran at the time but those too young to recall the events were eager for a different view on what had happened.

The decision on the lawsuit came after a group of Iranian cultural officials and movie critics screened the film in a closed audience in a Tehran theater late Monday.

The gathering, titled "The Hoax of Hollywood," discussed various legal aspects of filing a lawsuit, media reports said,

without providing details. It remains unclear what specific charges Iran could raise and what court Tehran could turn to if the action goes ahead.

Those at the meeting dismissed "Argo" as a "violation of international cultural norms." A statement issued after the gathering said that "awarding an anti-Iran movie is a propaganda attack against our nation and entire humanity."

The statement did not clarify how the movie was allegedly unrealistic, but officials have accused "Argo" of depicting

Iranians as "too violent."

They have also said the movie's director did not refer to other documentaries on the embassy storming or discuss reasons for the crisis, which included simmering resentment against the United States for a CIA-aided counter-coup in 1953 that toppled democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh and restored the pro-Western monarchy in Iran.

This was not the first time Iran has claimed that Hollywood has pushed a distorted picture of the country.

Pope watch: Smoke? Or are text messages better?

NEW YORK (AP)—White smoke or black smoke? Maybe it's easier just to wait for a text message that a new pope has been elected.

A Catholic organization has set up a website, www.popealarm.com, that lets people register to receive a text or email notification when a pope has been selected by cardinals meeting in Vatican City.

"When the smoke goes up, you'll know what's going

down" is the site's motto.

After a day of pageantry Tuesday, black smoke from the Sistine Chapel chimney indicated another vote was needed.

The text service set up by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, or FOCUS, was an indication of how much has changed since the last papal conclave, in 2005. The site had proven so popular, with more than 40,000 respondents, that it said Tuesday it could no longer

guarantee new registrants would get a text message. People could still sign up for emails.

Another new website, www.adoptacardinal.org, assigns interested people one of the voting cardinals at random to pray for him as he deliberates on a new pope. Nearly 500,000 people had signed up by Tuesday morning.

Television cameras on Tuesday caught for the first time the first steps in the papal con-

clave, with the participating cardinals, one by one, taking an oath of silence about their deliberations.

"For the few cardinals I have spoken with, all have said that it's the most important act they do as cardinal," said Father Joseph Martin, a Jesuit priest and television commentator. "It reminds you that they are also human beings charged with a divine task. Overall, I found it very moving."

'Bachelor' star Sean Lowe on 'Dancing,' TV wedding

NEW YORK (AP)—What do you do after winning viewers' hearts as "The Bachelor"? If you're Sean Lowe, you put on your dancing shoes.

ABC says Lowe is headed to "Dancing With the Stars." He steps up fresh from his engagement to Catherine Giudici at the conclusion of the recent season of "The Bachelor."

"I don't know if there's anything more challenging to me than learning how to do classical ballroom dance," 29-year-old Lowe said in an interview, calling it a "once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity."

The reality star says he made sure Giudici was on board with the idea before he signed on.

"Of course I'll be in the front row," added 26-year-old Giudici, who confessed she's looking forward to meeting fellow contestant and Bravo reality star Lisa Vanderpump.

Besides, Lowe's dance training could make for a great first dance at their wedding.

"That was part of the motiva-

tion," Lowe said with a laugh. "Hopefully we can impress everyone on our wedding night."

Those nuptials, the couple says, will take place in the same way they fell in love: on TV. So far, no specific plans have been made but they hope it happens "somewhat soon." They're just happy to be public as a couple.

"I wanted to gush and tell everybody" said Giudici of keeping the relationship under wraps. "We just channeled



Lowe

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Oz The Great and Powerful 3D			
Friday		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		7:00	
Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams			
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG			

Synopsis
Director Sam Raimi heads to the fantastic world of Oz for Walt Disney Pictures with this tale of how the great Wizard ended up as the ruler of his colorful land. David Lindsay-Abaire (Rabbit Hole) and Mitchell Kapner penned the script.

Oz The Great and Powerful 2D			
Friday		4:00	
Saturday		4:00	
Sunday		4:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	
Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams			
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG			

Jack The Giant Slayer 3D			
Friday		7:20	
Saturday	1:20	7:20	
Sunday	1:20	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		7:20	
Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor			
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

Jack The Giant Slayer 2D			
Friday		4:20	9:50
Saturday		4:20	9:50
Sunday		4:20	
Mon through Thurs		4:20	
Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor			
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

The Last Exorcism II			
Friday		4:15	7:15
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15
Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark			
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13			

21 and Over			
Friday		4:25	7:25
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25
Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz			
Genre: Comedy • Rated R			

Snitch			
Friday		4:10	7:10
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10
Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper			
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13			

Escape From Planet Earth 3D			
Friday		4:30	9:45
Saturday		4:30	9:45
Sunday		4:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	
Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba			
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG			

Escape From Planet Earth 2D			
Friday		7:30	
Saturday	1:30	7:30	
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		7:30	
Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba			
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG			

Good Day To Die Hard			
Friday		4:05	7:05
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05
Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney			
Genre: Action • Rated R			

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Dylan voted into elite arts academy

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

If he lived in England, he'd surely be Sir Bob Dylan.

The most influential songwriter of his time has become the first rock star voted into the elite, century-old American Academy of Arts and Letters, where artists range from Philip Roth to Jasper Johns and categories include music, literature and visual arts. According to executive director Virginia Dajani, officials couldn't decide whether he belonged for his words or for his music, so they settled on making him an honorary member, joining such previous choices as Meryl Streep, Woody Allen and a filmmaker who has made a documentary about Dylan, Martin Scorsese.

"The board of directors considered the diversity of his work and acknowledged his iconic place in the American culture," Dajani said recently. "Bob Dylan is a multi-talented artist whose work so thoroughly crosses several disciplines that it defies categorization."

Dylan's manager, Jeff Rosen, had no immediate comment on Dylan's reaction—Dylan did accept membership, a condition for the vote to go through—or whether he would attend the academy's April dinner or May induction ceremony. Dylan usually tours in the spring and is already booked for much of April for shows in the East and



In this Jan. 12, 2012 file photo, Bob Dylan performs during the 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles.

Midwest, none of them in the New York City area.

"I would guess it's unlikely," Dajani said of whether Dylan would show up for either occasion.

On Tuesday, the academy announced three other honorary choices, all from overseas: Spanish architect Rafael Mo-neo, South African writer Damon Galgut and Belgian artist Luc Tuymans. Voted into the academy's core membership were the novelist Ward Just, known for his stories set in Washington, D.C.; the influential minimalist artist Richard Tuttle and the acclaimed painter and printmaker Terry Winters.

Excluding honorary picks, the academy consists of 250

artists, musicians and writers. Openings occur upon a member's death, with current inductees nominating and voting in new ones. Members have no real responsibilities beyond agreeing to join, although some become active in the academy, which awards prizes worth as much as \$200,000.

Founded in 1898 and based in upper Manhattan, the academy once was designed to keep the likes of Dylan away, shunning everyone from jazz artists to modernist poets. Even now, the vast majority of the musicians come from the classical community, with exceptions including Stephen Sondheim and Ornette Coleman. Dajani and other officials have said that the academy is

reluctant to vote in rock performers because they already have organizations, such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, to honor them.

The 71-year-old Dylan is already the first rock performer to receive a nomination from the National Book Critics Circle, for his memoir "Chronicles: Volume One"; and the first to receive a Pulitzer Prize, an honorary one in 2008. He's routinely mentioned as a Nobel candidate and for decades has been scrutinized obsessively by academics and popular critics.

Dylan has had fans and even friends in the academy, among them the late poet Allen Ginsberg. A Dylan admirer and 2012 inductee, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Michael Chabon, will give the keynote address at the May ceremony. The title will be "Rock 'n' Roll."

Sean Penn's Haiti charity receives \$8.75 million

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—An aid group run by Hollywood actor Sean Penn announced Tuesday it is getting \$8.75 million from the World Bank to help move Haitians off a golf course where many have been living since the January 2010 earthquake.

A statement from a public relations firm for Penn said the money will go for rent subsidies or for new housing units.

Some 14,000 people still live at the Petionville Club in plywood shacks. Sixty thousand sheltered there at one point.

The people are to be moved out by early 2014.

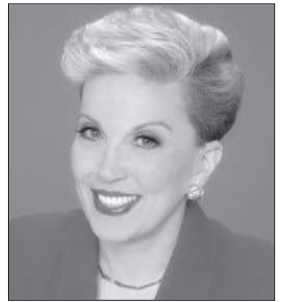
Penn is an ambassador-at-large for Haiti. He uses the post to raise awareness about the nation still struggling to recover from the disaster.

Penn's J/P Haitian Relief Organization took responsibility for the impromptu settlement a couple of months after the quake, which destroyed thousands of buildings.

The number of people displaced by the quake has dropped from a high of 1.5 million people to more than 347,000 now, according to the International Organization for Migration, an aid group that seeks to help people displaced by disaster and conflict.

Son trades on lies and good looks to get what he wants

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I need help and don't know where to turn. I am divorced and have a 37-year-old son, "Teddy," who has never married and has no children. He lives on his own except when he's in trouble or has nowhere else to go. Then he moves back in with me.

The problem is my son is a liar and has been ever since he was a teenager. He even lies when telling the truth would be better. I punished him every way I knew how when he was growing up. Nothing worked.

Teddy has been in trouble with the law in the past and is now in trouble again. Of course, he says he's innocent. I got him out on bond and offered to get him help. I also told him there would be no more money from me, and I no longer want to hear his lies.

Another problem: Teddy is extremely good-looking and women swoon over him. He ends up using them and then dumping them, and then they call me.

I don't know why he is the way he is. Is there treatment for people who can't tell the truth? Please tell me what to do. I love my son and it breaks my heart to see him do these bad things.

BROKENHEARTED MOTHER IN TEXAS

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: As much as you love Teddy, it's time to accept that you can't fix what's wrong with him; only he can do that. It won't happen until he finally has to accept the consequences of his bad behavior.

Taking him in and bailing him out is not the answer. It also helps no one when you have long conversations with the women who call you, so protect yourself by cutting them short. Considering the kind of man your son is, thank your lucky stars that he has no children—yet.

DEAR ABBY: My father recently moved to an apartment with no storage and I was left with 10 large boxes of memorabilia. Going through these boxes brought many tears of remembrance and new insights into the lives of my parents and grandparents.

My problem now is what to do with these things; I can scan photos and letters, but what about Great-Grandma's wedding dress (stained and moth-eaten), Mother's christening gown (too frail to use again) and the dear soft curl of hair from my uncle who died in childhood?

I don't have much storage room, and I'm not certain my children would even care about these things. Yet it doesn't seem right to throw them in the garbage. I wonder what other people do with treasured items that have no value beyond sentiment.

SOFT HEART/PRACTICAL HEAD IN TACOMA

DEAR SOFT HEART: Do not automatically assume that your children would have no interest in the contents of those 10 boxes. ASK them. However, if they say no, then contact the state historical society or a local theater troupe and inquire if they would have any interest. You may be pleasantly surprised to find some of the items would be welcomed.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are having a disagreement about laundry. When you buy new clothes that are still in the plastic wrapping, should they be washed before they are worn?

JIM IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR JIM: It's a personal choice. Some garment manufacturers recommend that certain items be laundered before wearing. However, if they don't, I don't!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Kelly Osbourne home from hospital after seizure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kelly Osbourne is resting at home after being hospitalized for five days following a seizure.

A spokesman for the 28-year-old TV personality says doctors have given Osbourne "a clean bill of



Osbourne

health," finding no conclusive results explaining why she collapsed on the set of E!'s "Fashion Police" last week.

Publicist Marcel Pariseau tells E! News that Osbourne "is looking forward to returning to 'Fashion Po-

lice' this week and getting back to business and life as usual."

Osbourne took to Twitter on Monday to thank the doctors and medical staff at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for "fixing me up enough to go home."

In another tweet, she compared her life to an episode of the medical show "House."

Flu, laryngitis causes Rihanna to cancel tour date

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna has canceled another stop on her tour because of the flu and laryngitis.

Her representative said the singer's show in Baltimore on Tuesday would be postponed. Rihanna canceled her Sunday

show in Boston because she was sick. Her "Diamonds World Tour" launched in Buffalo, New York, on Friday.

Live Nation said in a statement that "Rihanna is still recovering." The concert promoter said fans "are instructed to retain their tick-

ets pending rescheduling show date information."

The next date on Rihanna's tour is Thursday in Philadelphia. She's supporting her seventh album, "Unapologetic," which features the hits "Diamonds" and "Stay."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Queen cancels more engagements due to illness

LONDON (AP)—Royal officials say Queen Elizabeth II is cancelling engagements following her recent illness. Buckingham Palace said in a statement Tuesday that she will cancel some events Wednesday and Thursday. The 86-year-old monarch is recovering from a stomach bug she suffered



Queen Elizabeth II

last week. The illness led to a brief hospitalization, her first in a decade. Officials say the monarch presented a poetry award on Tuesday, and will "continue with the usual rhythm of business at Buckingham Palace." But she is canceling two events on Wednesday and Thursday. They say the queen hopes to resume engagements next week. The queen had to cancel a visit to Rome, last week because she suf-

fered from gastroenteritis, which causes vomiting, stomach pain and diarrhea.

'Great Gatsby' to open Cannes Film Festival

PARIS (AP)—The Cannes Film Festival has an American flavor this year, with a Hollywood icon heading the jury and a quintessential U.S. literary figure opening the event: The Great Gatsby. Organizers said Tuesday the film "The Great Gatsby," with Leonardo DiCaprio in the title role and directed by Australian

Baz Luhrmann, will open this year's Cannes festival — in 3-D, no less. Luhrmann stressed the film's French connection, saying in a statement that author F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote "some of the most poignant and beautiful passages" of "The Great Gatsby" at a French Riviera villa not far from Cannes. Tobey Maguire and Carey Mulligan also star in Luhrmann's version of the 1925 novel. Steven Spielberg is heading the jury at the Cannes festival this year, which runs May 15-26.

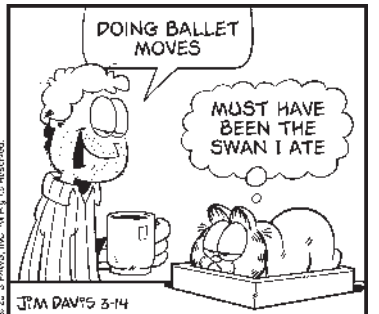
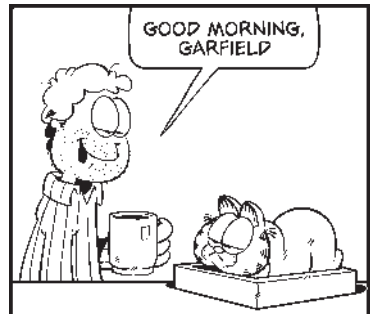
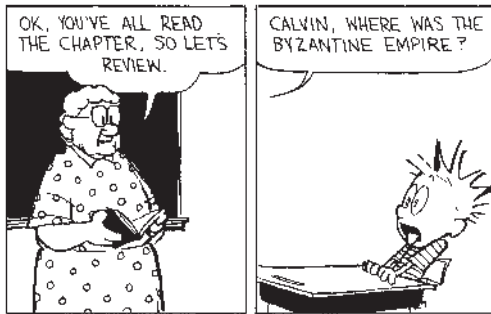
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

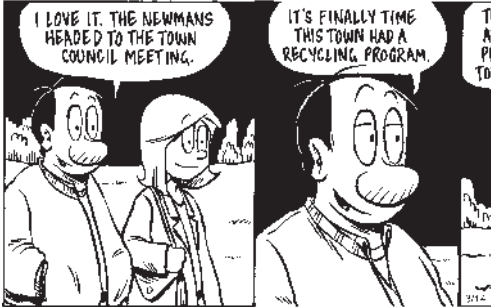


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jewel
4 Appointment
8 Con job
12 Boxing legend
13 Big story
14 — Major
15 Medieval enter-tainer
17 Anger
18 "— lazy river ..."
19 Extreme
21 Assault
24 Heavy weight
25 Hawaiian neckwear
26 With it
28 Complete range
32 Exam format
34 Illustrations
36 Soybean paste
37 Eastern potentate (Var.)
39 Lummo
41 Profit
42 Needle-fish

DOWN

1 Leg, slangily
2 Yale student
3 Little details
4 Break off
5 Spring mo.
6 Layer
7 Brilliance
8 Older spelling for a South
9 Gator's cousin
10 Largest continent
11 Shop-pers' mecca
16 Hot tub
20 Pooch
21 Lotion additive
22 Express-ion
23 Sedona auto-maker
27 Expert
29 Labyrinth beast
30 Addict
31 Carry
33 Humor-ous hoax
35 Play-ground game
38 Aries
40 Kin
43 Japanese noodles
45 Actress Ullmann
46 Staff leader?
47 Streaming video giant
48 Winged
49 1492 craft
53 Penulti-mate mo.
54 Cagers' org.
55 Try the tea

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	U	B	H	A	T	E	L	A	I	R
U	R	L	E	M	I	L	A	B	L	E
L	G	O	B	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O
R	E	C	U	R	Y	A	M			
			K	E	R	N		W	E	D
S	H	E	R	W	O	O	D	N	E	O
C	A	N	S	U	M	O	S	C	G	I
A	V	O	W	E	A	S	T	W	O	O
R	E	L	I	C		N	E	A	R	
			E	A	T		R	Y	D	E
G	R	A	N	T	W	O	O	A	L	E
A	O	N	E		A	F	R	O	U	S
P	E	A	R		S	T	E	M		B

Yesterday's answer 3-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Follows, 45; Billy Crystal, 65; Quincy Jones, 80; Michael Caine, 80.

Happy Birthday: Don't ignore medical, legal or financial issues. Taking care of business first will allow you the freedom to enjoy some of the creative and unusual activities and events that help sculpt your decisions. A strong base will lead to greater recognition and opportunity to advance. Commitment is highlighted personally and professionally. Let your intuition guide you. Your numbers are 1, 7, 18, 22, 24, 37, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your changing attitude will confuse some and excite others. Don't discuss your plans in detail until you have them fully formulated in your mind. The way you present what you want to pursue will make a difference to the outcome. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't hold back if you think you have a solution to an existing problem. Dive into the situation with optimism and hope that you can change whatever needs reform. You will convince others to pitch in and help you reach your goals. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be fooled by someone complaining and asking for your help. Charity begins at home and you must put you and your family first. Offer suggestions and get back to making the changes required to improve your life. Revisit an offer and negotiate. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Check out different lifestyles, cultures and geographical locations that can offer you greater opportunities. You may not like change,

but it's always worth checking out. Opportunity is available, but you may have to make a change to take advantage. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Share your insight, thoughts and ideas. Plan to visit a place or person that will inspire you to make personal, educational or professional changes that will improve your life. A favor or opportunity will come from an old colleague or friend. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Discussions will lead to solutions. Your approach to handling people and problems will be successful. A partnership will help you get ahead. Love and romance are highlighted, and plans for the future will enhance your relationship. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be fooled by someone promoting a new lifestyle, gadget or personal product that can perform miracles. Trust your own judgment and refrain from spending money. A change in your current relationship will lead to new beginnings. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow your gut feeling when it comes to affairs that will affect your domestic life or surroundings. Improvements can be made that will enhance your relationship with someone dear to your heart. Love is on the rise. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts a secret. Spend time at home doing things that will improve your life or bring you added comfort. Avoid anyone trying to push you into something you don't want to do. Deception is apparent. Physical and financial protection is required. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid a confrontation with a friend, relative or neighbor. Stick to business and focus on elaborating and developing your ideas and plans for the future. A better position is within reach. Present and promote what you have to offer. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Re-establish connections with people you have shared good times with in the past. Using your skills to improve your home life and surroundings will bring you closer to starting up a prosperous venture that allows you to work from home. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your intuition guide you when it comes to legal, financial or medical matters. Look over contracts and add what you require to make it worth your while. Love and romance are on the rise, and a commitment or promise can be made. ***

Birthday Baby: You are free-spirited, a creative thinker and an advocate of free speech.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3				8			
6		8		2						
		7				6	9			
			2		3				7	
	8							4		
4			8		1					
	7	5				2				
				6		9			1	
9					5					

Difficulty Level ★★

3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	1	5	6	3	7	2	9
7	2	6	1	9	4	8	3	5
5	3	9	8	2	7	1	4	6
1	9	4	2	3	5	6	8	7
2	8	3	7	1	6	9	5	4
6	5	7	4	8	9	3	1	2
9	6	5	3	4	1	2	7	8
3	7	2	6	5	8	4	9	1
4	1	8	9	7	2	5	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★

3/13

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CONTACT LIST

Solution: 7 letters

E	Z	Y	C	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	P	E	N
F	M	F	L	L	L	I	S	T	A	T	E	P	I	M
O	O	A	A	I	I	S	L	L	A	C	U	N	O	M
L	B	X	I	F	M	C	P	L	I	K	O	V	A	C
D	I	E	D	L	I	A	K	F	C	I	E	I	D	C
E	L	S	D	S	S	N	F	A	T	E	L	S	D	O
R	E	O	E	I	T	O	B	A	N	I	D	I	R	N
S	D	L	E	E	T	A	C	O	N	E	C	T	E	N
R	A	O	P	D	N	I	H	G	X	T	O	D	S	E
E	O	G	S	O	N	P	N	C	G	A	M	E	S	C
B	L	S	C	U	E	I	E	G						
M	N	I	M	L	G	P	F	N						
U	W	M	E	R	S	T	X	E						
N	O	T	E	B	O	O	K	S						
C	D	M	E	S	S	A	G	I	N	G	R	T	S	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Sale

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Howard scores 39, leads Lakers past Magic



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Dwight Howard endured the worst reception of his NBA career on Tuesday night.

He then promptly turned in probably his best performance of this season.

Howard scored a season-high 39 points, had 16 rebounds and was sent to the free throw line 39 times by his former team as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Orlando Magic, 106-97.

The victory came in Howard's first return to Orlando since his drama-filled offseason trade to the Lakers. He endured a chorus of boos throughout, and tied his own NBA record for free throw attempts.

The majority of them came as the Magic tried to employ an intentional foul strategy. It backfired, though, as the All-Star center hit on 16 of 20 attempts in the second half. It silenced his detractors and more importantly, helped the Lakers secure their fourth straight victory and keep from slipping in their playoff chase.

His reception aside, Howard said he left the court still thankful for the support he got during his eight years in Orlando.

"I wasn't nervous tonight. I was looking forward to playing here," Howard said. "It was a hostile environment, but I think that was something that was good for me. For my progress as a player, I think I needed that tonight."

Jameer Nelson scored 21 points, but also had six of Orlando's 14 turnovers. The Magic have lost three of their last four and haven't won back-to-back games since December. They also missed on their first season sweep of the Lakers since 2008-09.

After a week of back-and-forth in the media following some perceived negative comments made about his former team during a television interview, Howard and Nelson spoke briefly just after the final buzzer and shook hands.

"Everybody's always going to say certain things in order to start certain situations," Howard said. "But Jameer's my brother. We came in together, and I have no bad feelings toward him."

The embrace was a light moment in what was mostly a hostile atmosphere.

Homemade signs jeering Howard with sentiments that said everything from "Coward" to "Kobe's Kid" were sprinkled throughout the Amway Center stands.

Boos rained down on the All-Star center almost every time he touched the basketball. They were followed by louder cheers when he missed a free throw.

The intensity was also ramped up at times, too.

Howard got tangled up in a verbal back-and-forth with the Magic bench at one point during the first half, and Kobe Bryant left briefly in the first quarter, bleeding from his right eye after a collision.

"I think professionally it was really big for him," Bryant said of Howard's night. "Coming into this environment, playing as well as he did, it's big for his confidence."

The Lakers led 76-68 entering the final period and scored the first eight points of the quarter to push it out to a 16-point lead.

The Magic battled back and closed to 91-82 on a 3-pointer by E'Twaun Moore with 6 minutes to play in the game.

Howard made four straight free throws



Los Angeles Lakers' Dwight Howard reacts to fans shouting at him during the final moments of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Tuesday, March 12, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

at one point and the Lakers got their lead back up to 102-88 on a 3-pointer by Jodie Meeks with 2:25 left.

The Magic kept up the strategy, but Howard—who was shooting 47.8 percent before the game—hit his final eight attempts to help close out the victory.

"With any player, if you get 39 cracks at it, it's only natural for you to gain some type of rhythm," Magic guard Arron Afflalo said. "And he did a good job of making them down the stretch for them."

Magic coach Jacque Vaughn defended the strategy, though.

"I think early on it was a strategy that worked for us," he said. "If we would have made six more 3s, I probably wouldn't have done it, but strategy-wise I need to give our guys a rest."

Howard embraced the negative environment from the outset and was the main reason the Lakers had a 50-46

halftime lead.

He had 19 points and 10 rebounds in the opening 24 minutes, and would have had more if not for his 9-for-19 effort at the line.

Howard started just 2 for 9 from the foul line, prompting the Magic to try fouling him intentionally three times late in the second quarter. He had found his touch by then, though, hitting five of six on those occasions.

With the exception of Tobias Harris' 15-point first half, Orlando struggled offensively. The Magic had decent looks at the basket, but shot a paltry 37 percent (17 for 46) from the field.

They were also thin in the frontcourt for most of the half with center Nik Vucevic playing only 13 minutes because of two quick fouls. He went scoreless, with just two three rebounds.

At the end of the night, Howard said he was ready to turn the page.

"I think it was something I needed, to come back and I think it was something that the city needed, too," he said. "It's closure. We can all move on. We had eight great years. People are going to feel the way they feel. I totally understand that."

Heat 98, Hawks 81

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 23 points and Miami extended its winning streak to 19 games, leading wire-to-wire in beating Atlanta.

LeBron James scored 15 and Chris Bosh and Mario Chalmers added 14 apiece for the Heat, who matched the fifth-longest streak in NBA history. They will try for their 20th straight win on Wednesday at Philadelphia, the start of a five-game trip.

Only three teams have won at least 20 consecutive games in the same season: the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers (33), the 2007-08 Houston Rockets (22) and the 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks (20). The Washington Capitals also won 20 straight, spanning the end of the 1947-48 season and the start of the 1948-49 campaign.

Josh Smith scored 15 for the Hawks.

Mavericks 115, Bucks 108

In Milwaukee, Vince Carter hit three key 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and scored 23 points off the bench as Dallas won its fourth straight.

Dirk Nowitzki added 19 points while O.J. Mayo had 14. Mavericks rookie and former Marquette star Jae Crowder, last year's Big East player of the year, was one off his career high with 14 points.

Monta Ellis scored 32 points for the Bucks, giving him 20 or more in all six of Milwaukee's games this month. Mike Dunleavy added 18 points while J.J. Redick had 17. Larry Sanders had 13 points and 12 rebounds.

The Mavericks, who are three games out of the eighth spot in the Western Conference playoff race, matched their longest winning streak of the season and have won five of six.

Grizzlies 102, Trail Blazers 97

In Portland, Oregon, Zach Randolph returned from an ankle injury with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Memphis won its fifth straight game.

Marc Gasol had 20 points for the Grizzlies, who have won 13 of their last 14 games and sit in fourth place in the Western Conference. Mike Conley added 14 points and a career-high 15 assists, and Memphis matched its sea-

son high with 31 assists overall.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Blazers, whose playoff hopes are slipping away. Rookie Damian Lillard had 27 points.

Nets 108, Hornets 98

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 26 points and had a big dunk over twin brother Robin, Deron Williams added 21 points and 13 assists, and Brooklyn beat New Orleans.

Brooklyn squandered a 10-point lead in the third quarter before pulling off some timely baskets in the fourth to hang on for the win, bouncing back from a poor performance in a loss Monday at Philadelphia.

Eric Gordon led New Orleans with 24 points. Robin Lopez had 15 points for the Hornets, who played without leading scorer Ryan Anderson because of the flu.

Timberwolves 107, Spurs 83

In Minneapolis, Ricky Rubio had his first career triple-double with 21 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, leading Minnesota over San Antonio.

Rubio made 9 of 17 shots and grabbed his 10th board with 9:14 to play in the game, giving his home fans something to cheer about in a long, frustrating season. Alexey Shved broke out of a big slump to score 16 points and J.J. Barea added 17 points for the Wolves, who hit 12 3-pointers.

Stephen Jackson had 14 points and Danny Green 10 for the Spurs, who left Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard at home to rest after they throttled Oklahoma City on Monday night. San Antonio turned the ball over 17 times.

Bobcats 100, Celtics 74

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Henderson had a career-high 35 points, and Charlotte snapped a 10-game losing streak by beating Boston.

Henderson was 11 of 19 from the field and knocked down all 12 of his foul shots.

Ben Gordon scored 17 points and new starting forward Josh McRoberts had his first double-double for Charlotte with 13 points and 10 rebounds. The Bobcats (14-50) doubled last season's win total and posted their largest margin of victory this season.

The Celtics, playing without Paul Pierce, looked like a team that has played nine of its last 11 games on the road. Jeff Green and Jordan Crawford each had 14 points for Boston.

Cavaliers 95, Wizards 90

In Cleveland, Dion Waiters scored 20 points, Alonzo Gee added 17 and Cleveland held off a late run to beat Washington.

Cleveland played its first game since Kyrie Irving sprained his left shoulder Sunday against Toronto. The All-Star point guard, who watched the game from the bench with his left arm in a sling, could miss the next month — and maybe the rest of this season. The Cavaliers are 5-10 without him this season.

Cleveland led 90-78 with 4:29 remaining, but the Wizards cut the margin to 91-88 with 45 seconds remaining. Waiters, who scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, hit four free throws in the final 13.1 seconds to secure the win.

John Wall led Washington with a season-high 27 points.

Prospective Kings owner opens ticket waitlist in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—The prospective owner of the Sacramento Kings is calling on fans in Seattle to sign up for a "priority ticket waitlist" as a way to show the NBA how much interest there is in bringing pro basketball back to the area.

Chris Hansen made the announcement on his SonicsArena.com website on Monday. It was his first statement since the announcement of the sale of the Kings from the Maloof family to Hansen and Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer on Jan. 21. Hansen and Ballmer have a signed agreement to acquire a 65 percent stake in the Kings for \$341 million from the Maloofs. That sale is pending league approval.

"In addition to helping us understand and prioritize the demand for tickets, registering your interest will be a critical step in demonstrating to the NBA and basketball fans around the country the unbelievable passion that exists in the Emerald City to BRING BACK OUR SONICS!" Han-

sen wrote.

Hansen said no inference should be drawn between the start of a ticket waitlist and the efforts in closing the purchase of the Kings and relocating them to Seattle for the 2013-14 season.

"We are in the midst of working through the approval and relocation process with the NBA, and we would expect a determination to be made at the Board of Governors meeting in mid-April," Hansen wrote.

NBA Commissioner David Stern said last week that a counteroffer to keep the Kings from moving to Seattle needs to be increased financially before the league's owners would even consider the bid. The league has scheduled a meeting for April 3 in New York to avoid rushing debate on the issue. Representatives from Sacramento and Seattle will have a chance to present their case at that meeting, Stern said.

Wallace, Kruger highlight 1st day of free agency



Ready. Set. Spend!

The NFL's free agent frenzy began Tuesday, with Mike Wallace, Paul Kruger and Dannell Ellerbe among the big names to switch teams for big paychecks.

Several other stars, including Nnamdi Asomugha, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Antoine Winfield, are looking for jobs after they were cut in cost-saving moves on a busy opening day of free agency.

The Baltimore Ravens are paying the price for winning a Super Bowl. The NFL champions lost two key components of their defense in Kruger and Ellerbe. On Monday, they traded star receiver Anquan Boldin, a key to their title run, to San Francisco—the team the Ravens beat 34-31 to win the championship.

Kruger went north to division rival Cleveland for a five-year, \$40 million deal, while Ellerbe headed south to Miami for \$35 million over five years. Wallace, a former Steelers star receiver, joined Ellerbe in choosing the Dolphins.

"He has a unique skill set which we believe will be a welcome addition to our offense," general manager Jeff Ireland said of Wallace in a statement.

Baltimore did sign free agent defensive end Chris Canty, who spent the previous four seasons with the New York Giants.

The 49ers didn't go untouched, either. After giving up a sixth-round draft pick for Boldin, they saw tight end Delanie Walker leave for Tennessee.

San Francisco also confirmed the trade of backup quarterback Alex Smith to Kansas City, a deal that was known for weeks. The 49ers will receive the Chiefs' second-round pick, 34th overall, in this year's draft and a conditional pick in next year's draft.

The 32-year-old Boldin expressed surprise that he was traded.

"I thought this was the last stop of my career but regardless of the circumstances I came here to win a Championship ... and in February we came home Champions," he said on Twitter.

Ellerbe also tweeted as he moved on to the Dolphins.

"Just wanna take time to THANK



In this Jan. 6, 2013, file photo, Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Paul Kruger (99) looks up after sacking Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck during the second half of an NFL wild card playoff football game in Baltimore. AP

GOD for being in this position I'm in! Before I make da BIGGEST DECISION in my life I just wanna thank him!!!" Ellerbe said.

Kruger led the Ravens with nine sacks and added 2 1/2 in the playoffs and two in the Super Bowl. But he was too expensive for Baltimore to keep.

Wallace will give Miami the speedy receiver it has sought after getting just three touchdown catches from its wideouts last season. The Dolphins also re-signed free safety Chris Clemons to a one-year deal.

Denver ensured that Peyton Manning will be the Broncos' quarterback through at least 2014.

The four-time MVP's contract called for a guaranteed salary of \$20 million in 2013 and 2014 if he was on the Denver roster Tuesday. The final two years of his contract are worth \$19 million each, but are not guaranteed.

Coming off multiple neck operations, Manning threw for 4,659 yards and 37 touchdowns last season and was the NFL Comeback Player of the Year. He turns 37 on March 24.

Kansas City was busy finding support for Smith on both sides of the ball. The Chiefs agreed to a four-year, \$16 million deal with tight end Anthony Fasano, a three-year, \$12.6 million contract with defensive tackle Mike DeVito, and a three-year deal with Saints backup quarterback Chase Daniel.

Fitzpatrick, the Bills' starting quarterback, was released 1 1/2 years after getting a six-year, \$59 million contract extension. Fitzpatrick struggled after signing the new deal, and the Bills went 6-10 in 2011 and in 2012.

Philadelphia released Asomugha, who two years ago got a five-year, \$60 million contract with \$24 million guaranteed when he left Oakland as a free agent. Asomugha was a flop in Philly, often victimized in single coverage.

Asomugha was scheduled to make \$15 million next season, with \$4 million guaranteed.

Earlier, Tony Gonzalez changed his mind and decided to return to

the Falcons.

The NFL's career leader among tight ends with 1,242 receptions and 103 touchdowns said he was 95 percent certain he would retire after 2012, but the other 5 percent won out.

Hours before free agency began Tuesday, Gonzalez tweeted:

"The lure of being on such a great team and organization, along with unbelievable fan support was too good to pass up."

The Falcons also agreed to a six-year contract with left tackle Sam Baker, bringing back another key player on a team that came up just short of the Super Bowl.

Defensive end Will Smith and linebacker Jonathan Vilma, both implicated in the Saints' bounty scandal, agreed to restructure their contracts to remain with New Orleans.

The 31-year-old Smith and 30-year-old Vilma, both veteran defensive captains, would have taken up about \$23 million combined in salary cap space without the redone deals.

Minnesota finalized the trade of receiver Percy Harvin to Seattle, released 14-year veteran cornerback Winfield and re-signed right tackle Phil Loadholt. The Seahawks are sending their first-round and seventh-round draft picks this year plus their third-round selection in 2014 to the Vikings for Harvin.

Also Tuesday:

■ Houston cut receiver Kevin Walter, who was due to make \$2 million in salary. Walter never became the threat opposite Andre Johnson that the team hoped for. He caught 41 passes for 518 yards and two touchdowns in 2012. The Texans then lost tight end James Casey to Philadelphia.

■ Tennessee agreed to terms with Buffalo guard Andy Levitre and Walker. Levitre, one of the top offensive linemen on the market, got a six-year deal worth nearly \$47 million. He will replace Steve Hutchinson, who announced his retirement earlier Tuesday. Walker will help replace Jared Cook,

whom the Titans declined to tag as a franchise player because he wants to be paid more like a receiver. Cook signed a five-year deal with St. Louis.

The Titans waived safety Jordan Babineaux and guard Mitch Petrus.

■ Pittsburgh re-signed linebacker Larry Foote and wide receiver Plaxico Burress, and tendered offers to four restricted free agents: receiver Emmanuel Sanders, running backs Jonathan Dwyer and Isaac Redman, all of whom could be starters in 2013, and nose tackle Steve McLendon.

■ Denver agreed to terms with guard Louis Vasquez, late of San Diego. According to STATS, he has allowed just 11 sacks and had one penalty during his time with the Chargers.

■ Tight end Martellus Bennett agreed to a four-year contract with the Bears, leaving the Giants after one season. Defensive tackle Henry Melton signed his franchise tag tender at \$8.45 million, and the Bears agreed to a five-year contract with New Orleans Saints Pro Bowl left tackle Jermon Bushrod.

■ Cincinnati re-signed defensive ends Robert Geathers and Wallace Gilberry.

■ Carolina cut linebacker James Anderson, a seven-year veteran who set a franchise record in 2011 with 174 tackles.

■ San Diego released 11-year veteran tight end Randy McMichael and signed kicker Nick Novak to a four-year contract. The Chargers also agreed to terms with tight end John Phillips and tackle King Dunlap.

■ The New York Jets cut nose tackle Sione Po'uha and restructured the contracts of receiver Santonio Holmes and cornerback Antonio Cromartie.

■ The Oakland Raiders cut ties with two former first-round picks by releasing starting receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey and defensive back Michael Huff. The Raiders also cut defensive end Dave Tollefson and re-signed cornerback Phillip Adams to a one-year deal before the start of the league year. **(AP)**

Tony Gonzalez says he's returning to Falcons

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—The Falcons have some big holes at the start of free agency. Tight end isn't one of them.

Tony Gonzalez announced Tuesday he is returning for another year after his near-retirement, a move that has coach Mike Smith smiling.

"I can assure you we're a lot better football team this afternoon than we were this morning," Smith said soon after Gonzalez announced on his Twitter feed he will return to the Falcons for the 2013 season.

Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff said the new contract for Gonzalez "is not done but it will be done quickly."

Gonzalez decided "to give it one more shot" after talking with his family.

"Being part of such a great team and organization was too much to pass up," Gonzalez said in a statement released by the team. "I would also like to say thank you to all of the fans for their support over the last several weeks."

Gonzalez said during the season he was 95 percent sure he would retire after the 2012 season. His productive season made it difficult to stick with the retirement plan.

The future Hall of Famer, who turned 37 last month, led the Falcons with 93 catches for 930 yards and eight touchdowns. Each total set a high for his four seasons in Atlanta. He added 14 catches for 129 yards and two touchdowns in the team's two playoff games.

"I know Tony had said he was 95 percent as the season started," Smith said. "We were holding out on that 5 percent and we got it."

"Tony has been an integral part of our football teams for the last four years and we're just glad we have him back. Free agency opened what, 35 seconds ago? We got a good jump on it."

The announcement by Gonzalez drew quick approval from quarter-

back Matt Ryan, who tweeted "Welcome back."

Dimitroff said the decision from Gonzalez allows the team to resume efforts to bring back more of its free agents.

Among the players who became free agents on Tuesday are left tackle Sam Baker, cornerbacks Brent Grimes and Christopher Owens, defensive tackle Vance Walker, fullback Mike Cox and defensive end Lawrence Sidbury.

"We talked from the very beginning about re-signing our players versus going out and going hog-wild in free agency," Dimitroff said. "I believe with having Tony signed soon and agreeing to terms here we can continue to focus on other areas and some of the players we still need to sign from our present roster."

The Falcons already have announced agreements to re-sign strong safety William Moore and right guard Garrett Reynolds.

The Falcons released running back Michael Turner, cornerback Dunta Robinson and defensive end John Abraham on March 1, leaving the team without its leading rusher and top pass-rusher.

Longtime starting center Todd McClure, 36, also became a free agent on Tuesday and appears to be on the verge of retiring. McClure's agent, Rick Smith, would not comment on the center's plans.

Dimitroff confirmed retirement has been discussed with McClure.

"We talked about this recently that we wanted Todd to announce his own retirement," Dimitroff said.

Gonzalez has more catches, touchdown catches, yards receiving, 100-yard games and Pro Bowl appearances than any tight end in NFL history. Only Hall of Fame receiver Jerry Rice has more catches.

Gonzalez, who played his first 12 seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs, is a 13-time Pro Bowl selection.

Angie's Boys, Rebels start finals series

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Top ranked Angie's Boys and the Refaluwasch Rebels started their best-of-three championship series in the 3rd Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Monday before rain abruptly put a stop to their game at the Garapan Basketball Court.

At the time, Angie's Boys held a 47-42 lead with six minutes and change left in regulation.

The two teams reconvened at the Garapan court last night to finish up Game 1 and Game 2 was also scheduled that evening.

Leading into the three-game

final series, the two title contenders outlasted an 18-team field divided among three pools.

Angie's Boys knocked out Docomo Pacific, 89-66, last Thursday, while the R-Rebels issued the latter its first loss, 89-66, in a previous postseason match held last Feb. 24.

In last Thursday's playoffs, Angie's Boys worked out a slim 18-15 advantage in the first quarter and the match remained very close through midpoint as the teams became tangled in a 39-all deadlock.

Angie's Boys' Ralph Francisco and Docomo's Ichitaro Faisao led their squad in the first two exchanges with 14 and 15 points, respectively.

Angie's Boys then stepped on



Angie's Boys' Eugene Manglona, left, converts from the post against Docomo Pacific during their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last March 7 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

the gas after the break and mortared ahead, 71-53, in the third quarter before coasting to the easy win.

Angelo Fernando fronted the big push with 14 points.

He finished with 20 markers though teammates Eugene Manglona and Francisco led the team in scoring with 24 and 23 points. Faisao led Docomo with 21.

In the previous knockout match the R-Rebels stormed out to a 28-11 lead in the first period and maintained a healthy 48-28 halftime margin.

Shane Deleon Guerrero carried the squad with a baker's dozen at the start and teammate Frank Mettao and Roy Norita matched his effort in the second quarter.

Docomo jumped on its horse

after intermission and battled all the way back to within a couple of possessions, 55-59, heading into the last 10 minutes, but R-Rebels quickly regrouped and coasted to a sound win.

Sheen Metran led Docomo's third quarter charge with 12 points and added 8 more during crunch time for a team-high total of 25, but did not receive enough added support.

R-Rebels' Deleon Guerrero led all scorers with 29 points.

Angie's Boys 89 – Manglona 24, Francisco 23, Fernando 20, Maranan 9, Dela Cruz 4, Caro 4, Yap 3, Lee 2.

Docomo Pacific 66 – Faisao 21, Sison 13, Sacramento 11, Metran 7, Montes 6, Hernandez 4, McCale 2, Sancianco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 39-39, 71-53, 89-66.

MT. CARMEL

From Page 28

boys team, the newly crowned champion has Jun Yun, Joseph Muna, Andrew Kim, Tony Deleon Guerrero, Garijo Gamab, Joshua Santos, Jaydon Tenorio, S. W.Seo, Jonah Hahn, John Masga, S. H. Chu, and Kelvin Cepeda on its roster.

Francis San Nicolas coaches both teams and got his first championship on his second year with Mt. Carmel. The

Knights also got their first JV crown in five years since winning in 2007 against Marianas Baptists Academy and avenged their heartbreaking 34-35 loss to the Eagles last season. Mt. Carmel nailed the girls JV tiara after falling short for two seasons.

"It's nice to be back on top. These championships are products of the players' hard work and commitment. We practice consistently throughout the season and it was really tough for the players, especially during weekends,

but they are committed to the team and gave their best every game," said San Nicolas, who also thanked the management and staff of MCS and the teams' supporters.

San Nicolas first towed the Lady Knights to the championship with Travilla and Karleen Reyes anchoring the squad's offense. Travilla had a game-high 18 points, while Reyes chipped in 15, including two 3-pointers.

Reyes dropped her first trey in the opening canto and scored

5 points to put MCS on top, 9-2. The Lady Knights made it a 15-point lead at the break, 20-5, after Travilla nailed 8 markers in the second canto to finish the half with 10 points.

Mt. Carmel never looked back from thereon, as SIS failed to make headway in the second half with only Emily Jones consistently scoring for the Lady Geckos.

In the boys finale, Mt. Carmel neutralized the Eagles in the pivotal third quarter to foil the latter's bid for their third

straight JV title.

The Knights were up by only a deuce at halftime, 19-17, when they held GCA to four points in the third canto off one field goal and two free throws. On offense, Yu outgunned the entire GCA crew with his 6 points, while Hahn and Gamab contributed 4 and 2, respectively.

The Eagles never recovered from a lethargic third period, as it made only two field goals and one charity, while Seo and Hahn combined for three field goals for the Knights.

Girls Finals

MCS 37 – Travilla 17, Reyes 13, Zheng 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

SIS 18 – Jones 11, Guo 5, John 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-2, 20-5, 27-16, 37-18.

Boys Finals

MCS 39 – Yun 17, Hahn 10, Gamab 4, Seo 4, Tenorio 2, Muna 2.

GCA 25 – Abes 7, Camacho 7, Yu 5, Marmito 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-8, 19-17, 33-21, 39-25.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

Lim nailed the other one. Billy Hinson and Joel Fruit had one each for Paire.

Hall broke the ice in the 30th

minute, but Paire retaliated five minutes later off Hinson's goal and the match was in a standoff for more than five minutes before the former scored anew to give MP United a 2-1 halftime lead.

Lim stretched MP United's advantage right into the first minute

of the second half and it took a while before Paire got its second goal. Fruit moved Paire within one, but he scored with only one minute left and his time run out of time on its bid to force a draw.

In the other boys U15 match, Matansa edged Tan Holdings

off Terrence Belcher's goal in the 17th minute.

GIRLS U15
Tan Holdings 1,
Matansa 0
MP United 1, Paire 1

In the first girls U15 match

last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Tan Holdings defeated Matansa.

Neither team scored in first half and it seemed like the match would end in a scoreless draw until Mary Kay Alferos drained a goal in the closing minute of

the second half.

The second match of the weekend showed Paire forcing a draw against MP United.

Guinevere Borja scored the equalizer in the 61st minute, while Jayda Jeng made the lone goal for MP United in the 18th.

LIETO

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TUESDAY BIG LEAGUE

Braves 6, Padres 1

After two scoreless innings the Braves broke the ice with three runs stemming off a two-RBI double by Greg Iskawa that scored Lemarc Iguel and Peter Lieto. The latter scored soon after off a wild pitch.

The Padres then scored its lone run off an error in the top of the fourth inning, after which the Braves countered with two more runs in the bottom of the fifth off an error and an RBI base smash by Jeremy Atalig.

The Braves left runners on the corners in the sixth inning before adding its final run in the seventh inning from an RBI single by Robert Tudela.

Winning pitcher Lieto went

the distance and pitched a one-hit gem, giving up an unearned run off two walks with 12 strikeouts.

Iskawa batted 4-for-4 for two RBIs and three runs, while Atalig went 3-for-4 for an RBI and Tudela swung 2-for-4 for an RBI.

SUNDAY SENIOR LEAGUE

O'Acres 12, Hunters 7

After the Hunters broke the ice with three runs in the opening frame, the O'Acres pounced on the former with nine runs built off six hits that included a three-RBI triple by Verlane Secharmidal, a two-RBI triple by Denny Jebehn, and a pair of RBI singles by Jesse Brel and Keola Camacho.

The Hunters answered with two runs in the top of the second and managed to pull within a couple of runs in the fourth, 7-9, but the O'Acres' top of the order

awoke in the bottom of the fifth inning and added its last three runs off a leadoff triple and some costly errors.

The O'Acres then held strong on the field and held the Hunters scoreless in the last three exchanges.

O'Acres' Camacho batted 3-for-4 for two RBIs and two runs.

Fielders 15, Lions 2

The Fielders jumped in front, 8-0, in the first inning off 10 hits, which included RBI singles for Khobby Kaipat, Ian Rogolifoi, and Joe Guerrero, a two-RBI base hit by Cody Kaipat and a two-RBI triple by Jerry Kintol.

The Lions mustered its lone two runs in the bottom frame, but IT&E got them right back in the top of the second inning for a daunting 12-2 favor.

Fielders' Kainoa Wanket bagged an RBI single in the second though Kagman's damage was self-inflicted by four walks and some untimely errors.

The Fielders then added its last three runs in the fourth inning off some more extra throws around the infield. Khobby Kaipat lifted a sacrifice fly in the mix as well.

He batted 1-for-2 for three RBIs and a run. Wanket went 3-for-4 for an RBI and two runs, while Kintol swung 2-for-4 for

two RBIs and two runs.

Winning pitcher Wanket went all five innings and gave up two unearned runs off two hits and two walks with five strikeouts.

SATURDAY JUNIOR LEAGUE

Enforcers 13, Falcons 2

It was a 1-1 game after two innings until the visiting Enforcers tacked on three runs in the third frame off three hits. Juan Quitugua belted an RBI triple, Henry Lizama picked up an RBI off a fielder's choice, and Cedric Camacho bagged an RBI single.

The group then went ahead, 6-1, in the fifth inning after a second triple by Quitugua that was followed by some errors and the team delivered the knockout blow in the ensuing frame in the form of a seven-run burst off six hits that issued RBI singles to Lizama, Camacho, and Kier Agda in addition to a two-RBI triple for Ethan Babauta. The Falcons' last run came in the fifth inning off a base knock by Greg Sablan.

Winning pitcher Camacho gave up two unearned runs off two hits and three walks with eight strikeouts through 4 2/3 innings.

Quitugua batted 2-for-3 for an RBI and four runs.

Comets 11, Fielders 6

After falling behind early the Comets claimed a 4-3 lead in the bottom of the third inning off four hits, including an RBI single for Aurel Mendiola and a two-RBI triple by Franco Nakamura who was driven home soon after by Matt Kapileo.

The Comets then went ahead, 7-3, in the fourth inning off another three hits that logged an RBI double for Mendiola.

The Fielders managed two runs in the fifth inning, but the Comets fired back with four runs in the sixth and held IT&E to just one run in the final stand, which was an inside-the-park homer by George Pangelinan.

The Comets' runs in the fourth frame came home off a two-run home run by Nakamura, a wild pitch, and an error.

Winning pitcher Joe Monkeya gave up three earned runs off five hits, three walks, and a hit batsman with four strikeouts through five innings.

Comets' Nakamura batted 3-for-4 for four RBIs and a run. IT&E's Pangelinan went 1-for-1 for an RBI, two runs, and a pair of base on balls.

Red Sox 21, Lions 5

The Red Sox set the tone with five hits in the first inning for a 4-0 lead and though the Lions obliged with

four runs in the bottom frame, the latter would soon have its hands full following an early pitching change by the Sox.

The Red Sox started the second inning at the top of its batting order and cranked out another three runs off a single, a triple, and a double by Craig Aguon, Ryan Aguon, and Nathan Camacho.

Red Sox's Jose Tyquingo stepped to the mound to close the final out of the first inning and cruised through the next three innings, giving up just one unearned run in the bottom of the fourth frame.

In the meantime his teammates added two more runs in the third inning and pulled away in the top of the fourth after a 10-run explosion to walk off with the win; they bashed seven hits in the fourth inning and took advantage of numerous errors with aggressive base running.

Tyquingo dealt 3 1/3 hitless innings with three walks and five strikeouts, while Craig Aguon went on to secure the save in 1-2-3 fashion.

Craig Aguon batted 4-for-4 for an RBI, five runs, and a base on balls. Camacho batted 4-for-4 for four RBIs and two runs. Ryan Aguon went 3-for-4 for four RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base.

SINGLES

From Page 28

won over Ariel Marino and Celso Agui, 21-9, 21-11, while Edralin and Park edged Nopia and Mark Apolar, 17-21, 21-14, 21-15.

In the women's Class B doubles, Alma Ortega and Dianne

Run Leg of 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



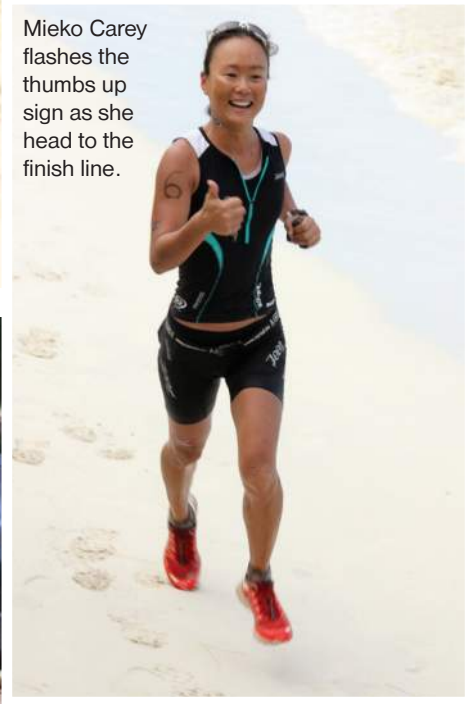
Paul Plunkett smiles, as he is about to cut the tape.



Peri Gray heads to the finish line after running along the shore of Micro Beach during last Saturday's 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship.



Russia's De Un Den cruises along the shore at Hyatt Regency Saipan.



Mieko Carey flashes the thumbs up sign as she head to the finish line.

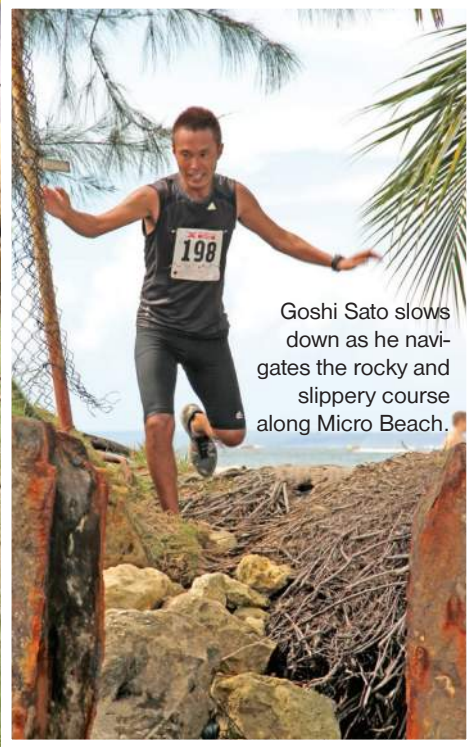


Carina Wasle celebrates her runner-up finish.

Below, Renata Bucher smiles as she is a few meters away from completing the race.



Below, two runners head to the finish line loop in Micro Beach.



Goshi Sato slows down as he navigates the rocky and slippery course along Micro Beach.



Bradley Weiss passes through the Puerto Rico road en route to the Anak's jungle.



Olivier Marceau takes a bite at a power gel as he heads to the Anak's jungle.



Howard scores 39, leads Lakers past Magic

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Wallace, Kruger highlight 1st day of free agency



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mt. Carmel School sweeps JV titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School clinched two championships in the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League after dominating separate foes last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Lady Knights set the tone for the Chalan Kanoa-based team with their 37-28 title win over Saipan International School, while MCS' boys team completed the junior varsity sweep after downing Grace Christian Academy in the second finals match, 39-25.



in the girls JV squad is composed of Karleen Reyes, Jan-Nasia Travilla, Antonia Reyes, Veeny Revilla, Jacqui Doctor, Theresa Zheng, Kalyn Diaz, Louisa Han, Jennifer Villagomez, Cassidy Toves, Leisha Deleon Guerrero, and Keona Camacho. For its

See MT. CARMEL on Page 26



Mt. Carmel School coach Francis San Nicolas, standing second right, poses with his champion teams after the Knights swept the junior varsity titles in the COPSSA basketball league last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MP United triumph in U18 and U15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association
MP United Football Club crushed Tan Holdings FC, 6-1, in the boys U18 game in the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tanapon Unsa lifted MP United to the lopsided win with his twin goals, while Jehn Joyner, Scott Kim, Sung Bae Park, and Chris Camacho contributed one apiece. Sean Perez avoided a shutout for Tan Holdings when he found the back of the net 10 minutes before the game wrapped up.



MP United's Greg Sablan dives for a save during the first half of their game against Tan Holdings in the boys U18 of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Fresh from his stint in an AFC event in Nepal, Joyner suited up for MP United and drilled the first goal in the game in the 18th. Unsa

made it a 2-0 count with his first goal in the 33rd and five minutes later Kim also lit up the scoreboard. MP United went on to take

a 4-0 halftime lead when Park scored just one minute before the opposing teams took a break.

MP United's lead then ballooned to five with Unsa getting his second goal in the 65th minute, while Perez ended their drought with the goal in the 70th, but Camacho answered with his goal seven minutes later.

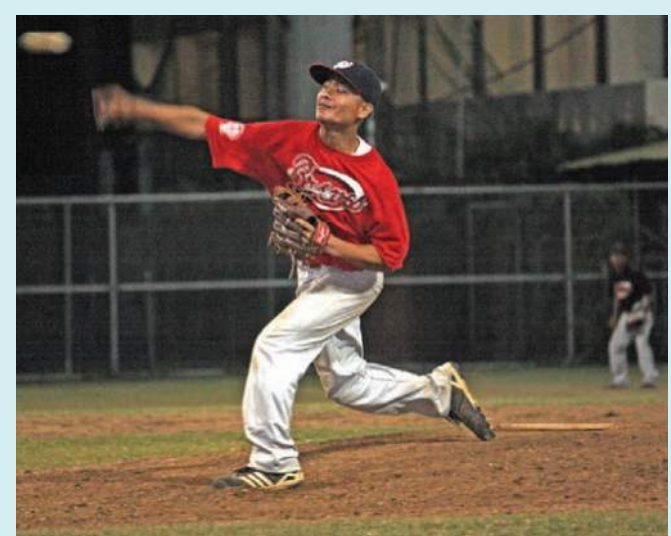
BOYS U15

MP United 3, Paire 2 Matansa 1, Tan Holdings 0

MP United also prevailed in the boys U15 match played last Friday at the Oleai pitch.

Dakota Hall canned two goals for MP United, while Daniel

See MP UNITED on Page 26



Natibu Sports Association Braves pitcher Peter Lieto rifles home a pitch against Paradise Island Animal Hospital Padres during their Big League matchup last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field.

BIG LEAGUE

Lieto pitches Braves opposite Padres, 6-1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Natibu Sports Association Braves pitcher Peter Lieto dealt a one-hitter to defending champion Paradise Island Animal Hospital Padres as the former scored a 6-1 victory in the Saipan Little League Big Division matchup last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field.

Other results had the Senior League's IT&E Fielders downing Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero Kagman Lions, 15-2, and Docomo Pacific's OI'Aces defeating the Hunters, 12-7, on Sunday.

Meanwhile, in Junior League play on Saturday the Junior Police Officers Program Enforcers overwhelmed the Talaabwogh Stars Association Falcons, 13-2; the Bank of Saipan Red Sox trampled Rep. Antonio Agulto's Kagman Lions, 21-5; and Rep. Antonio Sablan Comets defeated the IT&E Fielders, 11-6.

The season continues tonight at Tan Ko Field with a Big League double feature starting with the Braves versus the IT&E Fielders at 5pm followed by the OI'Aces taking on Rachel Q. Reyes Rays at 6:30pm.

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Singles players cruise to victories

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Singles players had trouble-free wins in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the Class A singles, Glenn Bluutjens, Jexler Caranto, Andreau Galvez, and Ferdie Arago notched separate wins after only two games. Bluutjens swept Macoi Aguda, 21-13, 21-18, while Galvez handed Aguda back-to-back losses after cruising to a 21-9, 21-13 triumph. In the two other Class A singles matches, Caranto downed Sam Jones, 21-18, 21-17, while Arago prevailed over Ezekiel Macario, 21-15, 21-15.

Three more singles games were played at the start of the Week 3 competition, while

four were won by default.

In the Class B division, youth player Jordan Pangelinan outclassed Dick Guintu, 21-13, 21-19; Koh H. Pang topped Edwin Montoya, 21-18, 21-14; and Saliya Rajapakshe defeated Brendon Talania, 21-15, 21-12.

Getting free wins after a no-show from their respective foes were Son Jae Ok, Daniel Shang, J.P. Nopia, Chris Hilario, and the pair of Loida Ito and Lani Santos. Only one doubles match was not played and the four others were completed.

Galvez and Caranto teamed up in the Class A doubles and they swept Edwin Maratas and Jorge Olanda, 21-16, 21-14. Recording another two-game win in Class A were Jones and Bluutjens, who also dominated Olanda and Maratas, 21-11, 21-10, while Pang and L. Hwang and Deether Edralin and Kevin Park notched wins in Class B and C, respectively. Pang and Hwang

See SINGLES on Page 26



Ferdie Arago, seen here going for a powerful return during his and Macoi Aguda's doubles match against Edwin Maratas and Jorge Olanda, won his singles game in the Sun Palace tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.